

Israeli tanks clash with Lebanese in two-hour battle

By Our Foreign Staff

An Israeli soldier was killed yesterday in a two-hour tank and artillery battle between Lebanese Army troops and the Israeli occupation force across the Israeli defence line in southern Lebanon.

The Israeli military command said two Lebanese militiamen also were killed. It was the third clash in nine days between the two armies.

Lebanese and Israeli officials each blamed the other side for starting the clash. A Lebanese Army communiqué said it was started by the Israelis who tried to push north of their occupation zone behind a screen of tank cannon fire. It said the Lebanese troops returned fire "with all available weapons".

But military sources in Israel said the Lebanese fired first.

Major Zein Khalifa, commander of the Lebanese militia garrison in Kaoutariyet or Sijad told reporters he saw Israeli soldiers evacuating two Israeli soldiers from the battleground on the outskirts of the village, 10 miles south of the port city of Sidon.

The official Lebanese account listed no casualties on its side, but reporters who visited the village shortly afterwards quoted villagers as saying five people - a Lebanese soldier and four Muslim militiamen - suffered shrapnel wounds.

Tel Aviv an Israeli military announcement said Israeli soldiers on "routine operations" were chasing suspected guerrillas when they were fired upon by Lebanese

Army troops. An Israeli soldier was killed. "Our forces returned fire," the announcement added.

No Lebanese Army casualties were reported. But Israeli military sources said two militiamen from the Shia Muslim Amal organization had been killed. Both sides said the exchange of fire lasted about two hours.

Meanwhile, further south near Tyre, an Israeli military convoy with 40 armoured vehicles entered two villages

the Israelis entering the villages, police said.

Reports from south-west Lebanon said 500 Israeli troops moved into the village of Kfar Danis, near Rashaya, yesterday, rounding up the population in the village square and making a number of arrests.

A woman was killed and four people wounded when Israeli intelligence forces and pro-Israeli militias moved into a village south-east of Tyre on Wednesday, also clashing with Unifil forces, police and Unifil spokesman said yesterday.

The Israeli and pro-Israeli forces were forced to flee on foot from the village of Yater, 12 miles south-east of Tyre, after villagers burned their vehicles.

Israeli troops arrested five journalists in the Tyre region yesterday, releasing them two hours later after confiscating their film and ordering them not to return to the area.

The journalists included correspondents of Agence France-Presse and the British-based television agency Visnews. On Wednesday Israeli forces arrested five journalists and held them for several hours.

The Israeli army, in a statement issued in Jerusalem, has banned journalists from Beirut from entering Israeli-controlled areas of southern Lebanon.

In New York Lebanon proposed yesterday that the UN Security Council censure Israel for recent acts by its military forces. Israeli alert, page 5

after clashing with residents and rounded up all the men in the area for questioning, local police said.

About 60 Finnish soldiers from Unifil, the United Nations peacekeeping force, part of the contingent in charge of the area, immediately took up positions in the hills overlooking the villages of Halloussiye and Tair Filsay, nine miles east of Tyre, the Unifil spokesman said.

Residents put obstacles across the roads and burned tyres in an attempt to prevent

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BMW - approached the village. The men had been cleared through UN checkpoints by showing Israeli military identity cards. In the village, one of the gunmen with the Shin Bet unit climbed out of his car with a pistol in his hand. Witnesses said he started firing over the heads of a group of women, who became hysterical.

All the sources agree that a Continued on back page, col 1

The villagers said two more gunmen joined the first man, and this time fired directly into the women with Kalashnikov automatic rifles - and that at this point, the Israeli plainclothes men also emerged from their cars and began firing into the growing crowd.

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The Queen Mother at The Times yesterday

Queen Mother pays a visit to The Times

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother yesterday paid a private visit to The Times offices in London to see the paper at work in its bicentenary year.

The Queen Mother, who will be 85 in August, was entertained to lunch in the newspaper's boardroom by Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman of Times Newspapers Ltd, Mr Charles Douglas-Home, the editor, and a group of directors and members of the editorial staff.

Afterwards she made a relaxed and unofficial walkabout of the newsroom, chatting to journalists busy preparing today's issue.

She spoke at length to sub-

editors, reporters and secretaries, was offered and accepted an impromptu box of chocolates, and gathered up a bouquet of tulips proffered by an admirer.

The Queen Mother, who owns an extensive collection of fine and rare china, was presented by Mr Murdoch with a set of six Wedgwood plates, gold-rimmed and depicting Haydon's celebrated nineteenth-century painting, Waiting For The Times, the original of which she was shown hanging in the editor's office.

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Rate cap accepted by Ilea

By Hugh Clayton
Local Government Correspondent

Two of the 16 Labour-led local authorities chosen for rate capping accepted the Government's orders yesterday. And a combined vote by Labour, Conservative, and SDP members of the Inner London Education Authority led to acceptance of the small cut demanded by ministers.

Mr Kenneth Livingstone, a member of the authority and leader of the Greater London Council, said during the meeting that the GLC would not fix a rate at its meeting today.

A three-hour meeting of South Yorkshire County Council voted unanimously to accept the 2 per cent rate cut demanded by Mr Thatcher, leader of the council, called it a "victory against the Government".

Merseyside County Council also adopted a rate rise of 11 per cent, well below the maximum allowed by ministers.

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Pace of job losses accelerates

By Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

The February unemployment figures - the last to be published before the Budget - show a further steep rise in the underlying total. The number of adult jobless registered for unemployment benefit rose by 20,000, after seasonal adjustment, to 3,148,000 or exactly 13 per cent of the workforce.

This is significantly higher than in the autumn, when unemployment was rising by only a few thousand a month. Officials blame February's exceptionally severe weather, which hit the construction industry in a way not fully reflected by the normal seasonal adjustment. Evidence of this is the unusually large rise in the adjusted total for unemployment in the south east.

Unemployment, however, is still thought to be rising at a trend rate of between 10,000 and 15,000 a month.

Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition, said to Government policies "have increased unemployment already by 2 million".

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said that record output, a record standard of living and record investment showed that the economy was "very strong".

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Chance to complain in Secret Service

By Anthony Bevins
Political Correspondent

Disenchanted officers of the Security Service and the Secret Intelligence Service are expected to be given an independent complaints procedure, so that they can vent their grievances and have them fully investigated within a totally secure system.

The strongest possible all-party support is expected for an amendment on the issue when the Intelligence and Communications Bill is considered in the Commons.

One of the concerns raised by tonight's Channel 4 film, *M15's Official Secrets* is that the complaints raised by Miss Cathy Massiter - the former Security Service operative who defied the full force of the Official Secrets Act to describe the surveillance work she had done - were stifled.

In the end, after she persisted with her complaints of political pressure, she was told to see a consultant psychiatrist. She then resigned.

Miss Massiter alleges in the film that among the people and groups "deemed subversive", and therefore open to surveillance, were leading members of the National Council for Civil Liberties, including Miss Harriet Harman, the council's former legal officer and now Labour MP for Peckham; Communists or sympathizers involved in serious industrial disputes, such as the Ford pay strike in 1978; and leaders of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

It is understood that there is support for a "Massiter amendment" at senior levels on both sides of the Commons. Although the Bill is restricted to interception of telephones and mail it does create the post of a statutory commissioner, a senior judicial watchdog, who might also be required to act as an internal ombudsman for officers' complaints of abuse.

Lord Elton, Minister of State at the Home Office, last night cleared some of the confusion about the work of the Security Service when he said that peaceful political campaigning or union work could not constitute subversion.

In the Commons, Mrs Thatcher said: "It is vital that we do not do anything to undermine the security services, because it would undermine the freedom on which the country depends." Parliament, page 4

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Rebuff for BBC on £65 fee

By David Hewson
Arts Correspondent

The Home Office has rejected the BBC's claim for a £65 licence fee and believes that the BBC's report on the corporation does not support the present licence application.

The size and the duration of the new licence fee has yet to be decided at a political level, but it is likely to be announced in three weeks in conjunction with the formation of an inquiry into the funding of the whole of British broadcasting.

The BBC published the Peat Marwick report on Tuesday and claimed that it supported a £65 licence fee and cleared the corporation of profligacy. But in *The Times*, the Peat Marwick partner responsible for the study, Mr John Fielden, challenged the corporation's interpretation of the report.

It is now thought that the Home Office also believes that the study, far from vindicating the corporation, contains a

Teachers' pay to be docked in 20 areas for no-cover action

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Twenty education authorities have already decided to deduct money from teachers refusing to cover for absent colleagues as part of their industrial action in support of this year's pay claim. This is considered highly significant by some employers' authorities because it goes half way to establishing that duties which teachers had up until now considered voluntary are in fact part of their contracts.

Among authorities already deducting money are Barnet, Barnsley, Birmingham, Doncaster, Solihull, Wigan, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Humberside. Many more councils are expected to join in. Last year only a few authorities deducted money from teachers taking no-cover action. "There has never been anything on this scale in the past", according to Mr Ivor Widdison of the Council for Local Education Authorities.

He will be informing Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, of those developments. The National Union of Teachers, the biggest teachers' union, whose members are withdrawing from so-called voluntary duties throughout England and Wales, says it will refund its members for the money docked. At this stage, however, the

union is not resorting to legal action against the councils on the grounds that this would divert public attention from the campaign for a flat-rate increase of £1,200.

Employers' leaders informed Sir Keith at a meeting this week that the strikes by teachers were having patchy effects, particularly in the shire counties. Schools in some urban areas were worse hit.

Mrs Nicki Harrison, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities' education committee, told Sir Keith that it was "hell" in Haringey, north London. Last week one quarter of Haringey's schools closed for three days. Meanwhile, the exchange of letters between teachers' leaders and the employers reached a new level of acrimony yesterday when Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the NUT and leader of the teachers' panel in the Burnham negotiating committee, accused the employers in a third letter of cementing bitterness in teaching profession.

It followed a long letter from Mr Brian Rusbridge, secretary to the management panel, who refused to answer Mr Jarvis's seven questions about a proposed conciliator.

16-plus technical courses

By Mark Jackson of the Times Educational Supplement

A new form of O and A levels, which replaces the traditional examinations by a mixture of written and practical tests and assessments, is to be pioneered in Welsh schools. It is intended to encourage bright pupils to take practical and technical courses instead of sticking to narrow academic studies.

Although Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has been pressing

for practical elements to be included in the 16-plus examinations due to replace O level and the Certificate of Secondary Education in three years, the new approach goes much further.

The whole syllabus will be built around practical work in such fields as information technology, business studies, tourism and television production.

Austin Rover sales rise in falling market

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

New-car sales in the first two months of the year were down 3 per cent compared with a year earlier, but in an industry of rapidly changing fortunes, Austin Rover has emerged as the latest star with an 8 per cent growth in volume sales in the two months.

BL, Ford and Vauxhall are operating incentive schemes for their dealers and it will continue to have a significant impact on market shares until the spring.

In February, the Metro was the best-selling car although in the two months, the Vauxhall Cavalier was in front, closely followed by the Ford Escort. The success of the Metro, however, helped Austin Rover to boost its market share in February to 18.3 per cent from a year earlier. The Montego and Maestro models, however, continued to languish at the bottom of the top ten list.

Ford, the market leaders, boosted its market share in February to 28.03 per cent against 26.2 per cent last year, while Vauxhall/Opel dropped to 19.95 per cent from 22.62 per cent.

The importers' share, including cars made by Ford, General Motors and Talbot in their European factories, was down to 56.27 per cent, a fall of more than 1 per cent. The Japanese share slipped to 6.2 per cent, compared with nearly 9 per cent a year ago.

The total market for the first two months was 315,181 compared with 325,672 for the same period last year.

Top ten

February "top ten" sellers: 1 Austin/MG Metro 13,598; 2 Ford Escort 13,473; 3 Vauxhall Cavalier 12,286; 4 Ford Fiesta 12,220; 5 Vauxhall Nova 10,305; 6 Ford Sierra 9,513; 7 Ford Orion 6,458; 8 Vauxhall Astra 6,178; 9 Austin/MG Montego 5,992; 10 Austin/MG Maestro 3,537. Source: Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.



Sir Walter Marshall, CEBG chairman, with the board's inquiry paperwork (Photograph: John Voos)

Three main topics in Sizewell inquiry

By Richard Dowden

The arguments about Sizewell B, Britain's proposed first pressurized water nuclear reactor, which have filled 340 days of the longest running inquiry ever, centre on three topics: cost, safety and environmental impact.

Cost: The Central Electricity Generating Board has argued the need to build the American-designed PWR at Sizewell on the Suffolk coast to provide 1,100 megawatts by 1994.

It cites the need for securing options on fuel supplies, and says that the PWR, at a capital cost of £1.2 billion, would save fossil fuel resources and allow older, less economic plant to be retired. It would save the consumer £1.25 billion during its 35-year life, the board says.

Economic arguments against the PWR are that there will not be a need in the 1990s for the capacity the board seeks. There is 30 per cent to 40 per cent excess capacity at present and the board's past predictions of demand have not been fulfilled.

Opponents argue that the fall in the value of the pound has made British coal more competitive and that the board's predictions of oil and coal prices cannot be relied on. Some say that the use of tidal, wind and wave power would be cheaper in the long run.

The South of Scotland Electricity Board added a twist to the debate by demonstrating the effectiveness of the Advanced Gas Cooled Reactor (AGR). It is considered safer than the PWR because it has no hot water under pressure.

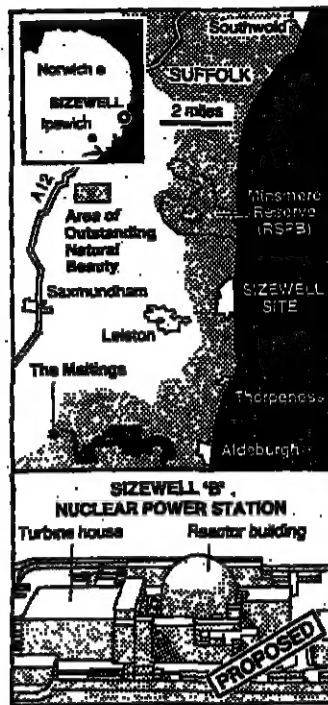
Safety: It was a PWR which leaked in 1979 at Three Mile Island in the United States with nearly catastrophic results and most of the inquiry's time has been taken up with questions of safety.

The CEBG argues that the PWR to be built at Sizewell is radically different from the one on Three Mile Island and that it has been adapted to British safety standards.

Friends of the Earth, who led the argument against the PWR, are not satisfied with the guarantees of safety, saying that the "phase change" involved - the use of water under pressure at very high temperatures - could lead to dangerous leaks of steam. If anything does go wrong there are only seconds to act. The horrific results of a cloud of radioactive gas escaping have been described many times.

Environment: At one level this argument is about whether the coastline, designated "heritage coast", would be spoiled by the construction of another power station next to Sizewell A.

The environment argument is also about the long-term disposal of nuclear waste. Environmental groups say that the proposed methods of nuclear waste disposal all contain potential flaws and the prospect of nuclear waste being left is unacceptable.



Archbishop defends Ethiopia comparison

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, responded yesterday to sharp criticism of his address in St Paul's Cathedral, in which he had linked suffering in Ethiopia with suffering in Britain's inner city areas. The criticism came mainly from national newspapers, with support from some Conservative MPs.

Clearly taken aback by the reaction to what was not intended to be a controversial sermon, Dr Runcie explained on Radio 4 that he had given three examples of what he called "darkness", the Ethiopian famine, the situation in Northern Ireland, and the conditions of life in some inner urban areas. His theme, he said, was "how Christians can bring light into darkness." But the inner city situation was very different from the Ethiopian famine.

The service in St Paul's was to mark the jubilee of the King George V Trust. This was doing marvellous work in inner city areas, which was why he brought that into his sermon. The archbishop said he had had lunch with the Prime Minister immediately after the service.

In his sermon he had referred to the Ethiopian famine, quoting the recent best-selling pop record *Band Aid*: "There's a world outside your window which is a world of dread and fear."

He went on: "We don't have to look as far as Ethiopia to find the darkness of death, disease, and disaster. It is here on our doorstep. In Britain, especially in our inner cities, relentless hardship, high unemployment and squalid housing give rise to neglect and the stresses and strains which explode in bitterness, violence, and crime."

One Conservative MP who criticized the sermon was Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, MP for Selly Oak, who said he sounded like a Labour parliamentary candidate seeking re-election.

Pit strike sequel: Tribunal pleas: 'Blacklegs dossier': Grimethorpe's legacy: Backroom boys

Industrial tribunal is sent 130 cases of 'unfair dismissal'

SCOTLAND

By Ronald Faux

The cases of 130 miners dismissed in Scotland during the strike have been sent by the National Union of Mineworkers to the industrial tribunal in Glasgow.

They will be presented as cases of unfair dismissal, and copies of the circumstances sent to Aca, the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, to decide whether settlement is possible by arbitration.

The tribunal has the authority to order the re-employment of an employee judged to have

Damage may mean moves

WALES

More than 1,400 South Wales miners face reallocation to other pits because of the damage caused to their two collieries during the course of the miners' strike (Tim Jones writes).

Savage geological conditions has meant the loss of the only two working coal faces at the Bedwas colliery in Mid Glamorgan and it will be at least nine months before any coal can be won from the mine. And at St John's colliery, near Maesteg, which was already threatened

been unfairly dismissed, and to award compensation. Both sides have the right to appeal on a point of law to the employment appeal tribunal, and beyond that, to the Court of Session and the House of Lords. The tribunal may also dismiss the case.

There is increasing pressure on the National Coal Board to disclose full details of the dismissals. Mr Gordon Brown, Labour MP for Dunfermline East, has tabled a question to Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, asking him to give all the offences for which the men have been dismissed, how many were first offenders, how many years' service they

had given to the industry, and what their redundancy payments would have been if they had opted to leave.

"I have looked at about half the cases in this area and most are of a minor nature, breach of the peace or obstruction. These carry fines rather than imprisonment. Some men who were dismissed had been only admonished by the court, another man was asked to do community service. Many of the fines suggest that the offences were not serious," he said yesterday.

The all-party select committee on employment is to ask the coal board and the Department of Employment to explain their policy on dismissal, and what criteria are used. They are seeking written evidence from the board.

Yesterday, the Scottish area of the coal board again refused to give details of the 180 dismissals in Scotland.

A spokesman said that 1,500 had been arrested, 900 had come before the courts, but only 180 dismissed.

The board admitted that a small number who had been dismissed might not have actually appeared in court, but been dismissed on evidence brought before the management. "It was made perfectly clear early on in the strike what the position would be," the spokesman said.

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£40m spent on policing worst area

COUNTING COSTS

By a Staff Reporter

The pit villages in South Yorkshire experienced some of the most violent confrontations during the strike. The cost of policing the dispute in the region has been more than £40 million.

At one time, during the National Union of Mineworkers' attempt to close the Orgreave coking depot near Sheffield last summer, men from 15 forces were drafted in to provide support for South Yorkshire's 2,800 officers. On one day more than 4,000 police were marshalled against pickets.

Policing costs detailed in a report compiled by the South Yorkshire Police Authority disclosed that overtime payments to its own officers, after 44 weeks of the dispute, had cost £1,753,000.

The cost of assistance from outside forces had reached almost £15 million.

The support units, made up of South Yorkshire officers and those seconded from outside forces via the national reporting centre at Scotland Yard, had, by the middle of January, spent a total of 12,500 man-days in the conflict.

Of the total £40 million in costs by January, the county council had incurred a bill of £26 million made up of overtime salary costs and payments to other authorities.

The total additional expenditure was then calculated at almost £20 million, after allowing for the standard Home Office grant of 50 per cent, plus the special payment to meet the strike costs, left an extra £1,055,000 for the council to pay.

In West Yorkshire the bill at the year end was put at £5 million.

Unhappy lot: A weary police officer at Gascolgne Wood

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Unhappy lot: A weary police officer at Gascolgne Wood

Union threat to rebel hauliers

LORRY DOSSIER

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The Transport and General Workers' Union has asked its local officials to compile dossiers on haulage companies which crossed picket lines during the miners' strike to establish how many of its members defied union policy of backing the dispute.

Once the union knows the names of members who took part in strike breaking convoys, regional officials will decide whether they should be disciplined either through fines or expulsion from the union.

Leaders of the country's biggest union, who have been stung by criticism by some left wing groups that they paid "lip service" in their support for the strike, also disclosed yesterday that they had channelled several million pounds to the National Union of Mineworkers to keep it in business.

Mr Moss Evans, the transport union general secretary, refused to give details of the union's financial help for the miners.

Mr Evans said his union's 250,000 members in road haulage accounted for only 20 per cent of the industry's workforce.

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Mr Hart's father, a financier, knew Mr MacGregor, and his brother Tim worked for MacGregor at Lehmann Brothers, the New York merchant bank.

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Chiefs gather loyal officer corps

BEHIND THE SCENES

By Rupert Morris

One of the few things that Mr Arthur Scargill and Mr Ian MacGregor have in common is that both, when they arrived in their respective jobs, were acutely distrustful of the administrative hierarchy they inherited.

Accordingly, neither was afraid to put a few previously prominent noses out of joint in the process of gathering together their own loyal and reliable officer corps.

Their approach differed in that whereas Mr Scargill has remained both the visible head and the dominant personality, Mr MacGregor has increasingly moved into the background, no longer a visible figure, but clearly influential not only by government ministers but also by two enigmatic back-room boys, Mr David Hart and Mr Tim Bell.

Mr Hart is a flamboyant character, a former property speculator who went spectacularly bankrupt in 1975, was discharged in 1979, and is now once more rich and successful, a property dealer, author, filmmaker, photographer, musician and, for some time has contributed advice on economic and social affairs to Downing Street.

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Mr Hart himself is unwilling to discuss his role beyond saying that he acted "for love of country". Hobart House staff testify to the high regard in which he is held by Mr MacGregor, and it is said that on the occasion of the televised debate between Mr MacGregor and Mr Scargill, Mr Hart was in the studio waving prompt cards from the wings.

Mr MacGregor has received more conventional advice from Mr Tim Bell, formerly of Saatchi and Saatchi.

In the National Union of Mineworkers' camp, by contrast, it is hard to say who influences Mr Scargill, whose dominance as union president was reinforced by the move of headquarters from London to Sheffield.

His two strongest personal influences are probably his wife Ann, a forceful and committed socialist whose role in the Miners' Wives Support Group brought her out of the backroom and into the limelight, and Mr Jim Parker, his former coalface colleague and latterly driver and bodyguard.

It was he who was bruised by the fin of eatfood thrown at his boss by a retired teacher in Sunderland in October, but in spite of being ever-present among the Scargill media circus, he had proved as informative as the proverbial clam.

A more visible supporter, whose loyalty has been similarly unquestioning, is Mr Maurice Jones, the editor of *The Miner*, the union newspaper which has faithfully reflected its leader's view. Mr Jones's role as propaganda chief has been important, but hardly crucial.

As far as the day-to-day running of the union's affairs are concerned, Mr Scargill's closest lieutenants are Mr Michael Clapham, the union's head of industrial relations, Miss Nell Myers, daughter of an American dockers' leader, who doubles as his personal assistant and press secretary, and, until recently, Miss Peggy Kahn, a Marxist academic from the University of California.

Nuclear power 'kept the lights on' during strike

CEGB VIEW

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The Central Electricity Generating Board yesterday admitted that without its nuclear power stations, the "lights would have gone out" during the strike.

Sir Walter Marshall, CEBG chairman, paid tribute to power station staff who for a year, juggled output from coal-fired stations where stocks were running out, oil-fired stations where expensive oil was being

delivered, and the nuclear stations.

"Mr Scargill has done more than anyone, to show the strength of our case for more nuclear stations," he said, in Suffolk yesterday where he was attending the final day of the inquiry into the proposed pressurized water reactor (PWR) nuclear power station at Sizewell.

A miner who worked at the Merthyr Vale colliery during the strike has not been moved from the coalface after talks with the union as stated in some editions yesterday.

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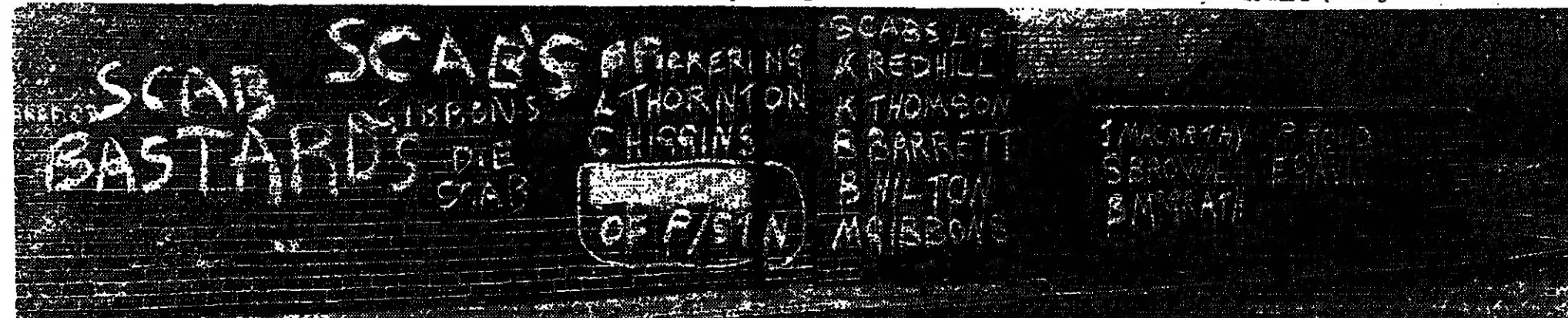
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A wall of hate in Grimethorpe, but police arrests, not the few miners who broke the strike, are the main cause of bitterness in the Yorkshire village (Photograph: Harry Kerr)

PARLIAMENT MARCH 7 1985

Bill before Easter • Ulster terrorism

Honda factory plans

Commentary

Fowler acts to stop commercial surrogacy

SOCIAL POLICY

A Bill to prevent commercial surrogacy mother agencies operating in the United Kingdom is to be introduced in the Commons shortly by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Health and Social Services, said in a statement to the Commons.

He was cheered when he said that the Government believed commercial surrogacy was in principle undesirable. The Bill would prohibit commercial agencies from recruiting women as surrogate mothers and from making surrogacy arrangements. It would also prohibit advertising of their services.

Mr Fowler said that the question of surrogacy raised wide issues not just of general principle but also about, for example, the legal status of children and the involvement of professional people in facilitating surrogacy arrangements.

He has concluded (he said) that it would be right to deal with these questions in the comprehensive legislation which is needed to deal with the whole range of issues by the Warlock report.

Nevertheless, it is clear that the existing position is unsatisfactory. The case of Baby Cotton demonstrated the difficulties which commercial surrogacy arrangements can cause and the widespread public concern about them.

There are almost certainly other similar cases in prospect and there is an incentive for commercial agencies to increase their activities before any general legislation can be brought forward.

The objectives of the Bill would not be to resolve all the issues in surrogacy.

It will, however, (he said) give rapid effect to the widespread view

that is not an area where commercial agencies should operate and will avoid a possible increase in the number of surrogacy arrangements procured by them. Action of this kind is justified and urgent.

Ms Jo Richardson, Opposition spokeswoman on women's rights, said the Opposition welcomed Mr Fowler's intention to introduce a Bill to outlaw the profit-making element of surrogate parenthood. They were strongly opposed to commercial agencies making money out of people's miseries.

Ms Richardson wants to see women exploited (she said). The genuine desire of infertile parents to have a child must be carefully thought out.

Mr Fowler's main concern is to move quickly in an area where there is most concern. We need a uniform recommendation to be ban commercial surrogacy agencies. This has been supported by virtually all of the organizations who have commented on the Warlock report.

Clearly this does not invalidate the case for a more comprehensive Bill. Equally we should act quickly and ban this particular abuse.

Mr Roger Sims (Chislehurst, C): The original case which drew public attention to this matter involved an American lady. How extensive will be the legislation Mr Fowler is proposing?

Mr Fowler: It will essentially affect arrangements in this country. Agencies and advertising in this country. Clearly we have been influenced by the Baby Cotton case and some of the cases in the United States.

Mr Rogers: That option is still open.

He said later that he hoped to be in a position to introduce the Bill before Easter.



Richard Fowler: Profit must be outlawed

Tweed, Lt. Does Mr Fowler believe that a contract for a surrogate mother to hand over a baby at birth can be legally enforced? If it cannot, does he feel this issue can really await the second Bill?

Mr Fowler: A contract is unenforceable. It would be wise, I am afraid, for the House to look at all these issues about the legal status of the child, which is totally unsatisfactory at the moment. That will have to be dealt with in the general legislation.

Mrs Ann MacCurley (West Renfrew and Inverclyde, C): Will Mr Fowler be taking a sympathetic eye on those who are present in the same tangle as the Baby Cotton parents and are issue guidelines to those who are responsible for the safe keeping of these children when they are born, which will inevitably happen before legislation.

Mr Fowler: She is right, there is nothing we can do in this legislation which affects children who are to be born in the next two or three months. I will see if there is any further guidance we can issue.

Mr Fowler assured MPs the Bill would apply to Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Sir Hugh Ross (Hornsey and Wood Green, C): Would not making all surrogacy, whether commercial or non-commercial, illegal avoid a great many future and sociological problems?

Mr Fowler: That option is still open.

He said later that he hoped to be in a position to introduce the Bill before Easter.

Biffen resists Labour demands to delay phone tapping Bill

SECURITY

The Interception of Communications Bill - the Bill lost on Wednesday because of Tuesday's prolonged Commons sitting - has been set down for second reading next Tuesday. Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, announced in the Commons.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, asked for the order of business of consideration of the Bill until "proper answers" had been given to the serious allegations made in the Channel 4 television programme. Because of the very narrow result, he said the report by Lord Bridge was merely a clumsy attempt to dodge the issues of real concern. As long as the Government took this attitude the more people would think it had something to hide.

Mr John Biffen, refusing a further postponement, said the Bill was published on February 14. It was a product of genuine concern that Parliament should be able to debate it and proceed with the legislation.

Mr John Stokes (Halesowen and Stourbridge, C): The Bill is a healthy interest in some sections of the press, particularly *The Guardian* and *The Observer*, about security matters - and nobody else is interested in the subject at all - will be arranged for the House to go into secret session when we debate the Bill?

Mr Biffen: He makes an interesting point but it is sufficiently sweeping to make me in danger of seeming like a moderate.

Mr David Wainick (Walsall North, Lab): In view of Lord Bridge's quite farcical report, what we require before a second reading of the Bill is a proper report dealing with the harassment suffered by trade unionists and peace campaigners at the hands of the security services and Special Branch.

Why was the ex-editor of the *CND* journal questioned closely by the police about leading personalities within *CND*, their private lives and the leadership style of the general secretary? Does this not have more in common with Russia and Czechoslovakia than a democracy?

Mr Biffen: I cannot go beyond the answer I gave Mr Kinnock. I will draw his remarks to the attention of the Home Secretary.

All governments had been governed by the same practice and had discharged their responsibility for the intelligence and security services carefully. Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during

SCOTLAND

Increases in rate bills emerging in Scotland were in general so steep, Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, told the Commons that he felt he must take further action to protect domestic ratepayers.

He announced in a statement on valuation and the rate support grant that he had decided to increase the total aggregate Exchequer grant and within it the domestic element of rate support grant by £38.5m making it possible to increase the rate relief to 9p per pound of rateable value.

In considering the rate support grant settlement for 1985-86, he said he had had very much in mind the special issue which valuation of rates raised. The necessary order would be laid shortly.

It is however now becoming very clear (he said) that authorities are not heeding my repeated warnings to contain their expenditure. Spending in both 1984-85 and 1985-86 will continue to be above the Government's plans.

The increase in domestic rates will in total now be reduced from 22 per cent to about 17 per cent. The increases for individual ratepayers

will in many cases be higher, and in many cases lower, than this figure, depending on the level of spending in their local authorities and changes in the pattern of valuation.

It is of course open to ratepayers to appeal against their valuation and we have made improvements in appeal procedures in the Rating and Valuation (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 1984.

The cost of increasing domestic rate relief in this way will be financed by adjustments within my existing policies and expenditure programmes.

As I have said, the object of revaluation is to apportion the burden of the rates so that some pay a larger share and some a smaller share. That is justifiable, but it is necessary to have regard to the effect on domestic ratepayers in current circumstances. This I have done with a substantial increase in domestic rate relief.

Mr James Craig, an Opposition spokesman on Scotland, said Mr Younger must think that Scottish ratepayers were daft if they were going to be taken in by this chickenfeed of an increase in domestic relief when he had already cut back substantially in the form of rate support grant settlement for 1985-86.

Mr Younger said later that the Government was involved in a study to see what further improvements could be made in the rating system.

It is the Government alone (he said) that has stood out with the determination to see that the effects on the domestic ratepayer are not too severe.

Domestic ratepayers get more relief

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One would have needed remarkable powers of foresight to predict that the longest continuous speech in the House of Commons this century would be on the Water (Flouridation) Bill. But what was the purpose of it all?

I am not asking about the objectives of the legislation, and why it has aroused such passionate opposition. But what did Mr Ivan Lawrence hope to achieve by speaking for four hours 23 minutes, and why was this astonishing filibuster continued so long that Wednesday's normal business had to be postponed?

It is not the argument against fluoridation of water to go on the record. Mr Lawrence explained blandly, "It just happens to be a rather long argument." Yes indeed, but fortunately Mr Lawrence is able on other occasions to present his case a little more succinctly. The operation was clearly part of a parliamentary manoeuvre. What was it?

This is not a Bill to which the normal parliamentary rules apply. It is a government measure, and the payroll vote, those who hold any kind of office, is being mobilized in its support. But otherwise there is a free vote, and most of the opposition comes from Conservative members.

There are about half a dozen fervent opponents, and perhaps another 50 Conservative MPs who feel sufficiently strongly to mount a rear-guard campaign. But even with the backing of a number of members from other parties there are not enough votes to defeat the Bill outright in the Commons, at this stage.

So the first objective of the resistance movement was delay. Another filibuster the week before had forced the Government to adjourn the report stage of the Bill. Because so many parliamentary battles are fought over the use of time, this was a significant tactical victory.

This success whetted the appetite of the rebels, who thought they might be able to achieve the same thing again this week. That was probably still the principal thought in their minds while Mr Lawrence was speaking from 5am to 9.30am on Wednesday. If they had been able to continue blocking progress they might have hoped that the Government would withdraw the Bill for this session, rather than allow the parliamentary timetable to be messed around too much.

But once it was clear that the Government was not prepared to give way again, that it was even glad to have an excuse to postpone the phone-tapping debate, there was another purpose in maintaining a filibuster. This was to send a message to the Lords that the opposition in the Commons is sufficiently strong to justify resistance in the Upper House.

It is the interplay between the two Houses that is particularly interesting in parliamentary terms. The greater independence of the Lords is now appreciated by MPs. But the recognize that while the Upper House is much more prepared than in the past to frustrate the Government's wishes, it is sensitive to constitutional proprieties.

It is believed to be unwilling to throw out a manifesto commitment of any government, and it is thought to be influenced by the degree of opposition to a measure that has been expressed in the Commons. The stronger it has been, the more likely it is that the Lords will give the Commons the chance to think again.

The fluoridation Bill comes into rather a different category as it is not a manifesto commitment, and opinions on it cut right across party boundaries. It even managed to split the Scottish National Party neatly in half, with Mr Gordon Wilson voting for it and Mr Donald Stewart against it.

It has secured comfortable majorities at each of the critical stages in the Commons. But after the sound and fury there, the Lords can now feel free to judge the Bill entirely on the merits of the case, without concern for political side effects.

Look at insurance that covers ransom

KIDNAPPING

Mr Douglas Hard, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, indicated in the Commons that the Government was considering the possibility of City of London insurance companies which were offering policies to cover the payment of ransom to kidnappers.

He was replying to Mr John Hume (Foyle, SDP) who contended that terrorist activities, and international terrorist activities, were being financed by insurance companies in the City, providing policies for the payment of ransom for kidnapping. This was a positive encouragement to kidnapping, he said.

Would the Secretary of State confirm that a leading insurance company had already admitted to

paying such a ransom? Why had the Government refused to make such activities illegal?

Mr Hard said the Government was aware that such policies did exist and had existed for some time. He had heard arguments against and in favour of allowing such policies to continue. That is (he said) one of the matters we are now considering.

Mr Antony Marlow (Northampton North, C): The overwhelming majority of people, albeit some reluctantly, accept it would be unreasonable for us to ask security forces when confronted by armed men who are bent on violence, to wait until their lives are at risk and are fired on before they defend themselves.

Mr Hard: These are judgements that have to be made on the spur of the moment, and difficult judgements they have to be.

Mr James Molyneux (Lagan Valley, OUP): In addition to countering the IRA's shoot-to-kill campaign against Roman Catholics, will Mr Hard do all in his power to reduce the flow of explosives across the United Kingdom and Irish Republic frontier?

Mr Hard: This is an important point much in my mind. It was a homemade device that did the damage in Newry.

Mr William Benyon (Milton Keynes, C): Ordinary people cannot understand why the security forces cannot prevent the flow of explosives across the frontier. Has not the time come for the yellow card to be reviewed?

Mr Hard: I do not believe myself on the evidence available that the existing rule acts as an inhibition on the legitimate right of the security forces to protect themselves.

BR urged to win back traffic

The hope that British Rail workers would make it top priority to get back freight and passenger traffic, too, was expressed by Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, during Commons questions.

Mr David Maclean (Pentrich and the Border, C) had asked if Mrs Thatcher had seen reports that British Rail unions were seeking pay rises of over 30 per cent.

In recent months (he continued) the prehistoric leadership of these unions has deliberately sabotaged the freight network to the tune of over £200 million.

There should be no pay rises for British Rail staff this year until we see productivity gains of a similar amount.

Mrs Thatcher also said she was afraid BR had lost a lot of income because of their approach to not carrying enough coal or because there had not been enough coal to carry during the strike.

Lord Lucas of Chilworth: I can confirm that Honda have not asked the Government for a grant.

Lord Bruce of Donington (Lab): The negotiations have been between Honda and British Leyland direct and concern the possible future development of 367 acres in Swindon with the possible development of joint manufacturing capacity in terms of engines and also the possible future assembly of cars.

Lord Lucas of Chilworth: This gives me the opportunity to say that the land at Swindon is to be used for buildings that will enable pre-delivery inspection of a Cowley-produced Honda version of the 2.5 car, pre-delivery inspection of cars currently being carried out at Sheerness and the possible sub-assembly of certain components of the 2.5 car.

The collaborative arrangements between British Leyland and Honda are confidential between the two companies but insofar as in BR, the Government has an interest in BR, the Government has an interest in BR.

Lord Bruce-Gardyne: The real issue is the question of taxpayer support for such an operation. Would he confirm that since Swindon is not a

Next week's business

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be Monday: Debate on Opposition motion on unemployment and industrial policies.

Tuesday: Interception of Communications Bill, second reading. Motion on when to debate.

Wednesday: Motion on Local Government (Prescribed Expenditure) (Amendment) Order.

Thursday: Debate on industrial support. Debate on Falkland Islands.

Friday: Private Member's motion on the economic, housing and social situation in the West Midlands.

The main business in the House of Lords will be: Monday: Appropriation (Northern Ireland) Order. Debate on EEC common fisheries policy.

Tuesday: National Heritage (Scotland) Bill, report. Representation of the People Bill, second reading.

Wednesday: Debate on relations with the Soviet Union.

Thursday: Administration of Justice Bill, report.

IRA funds deposited in banks

TERRORISM

The Government was looking urgently at its existing powers to see if they needed to be enforced in relation to money suspected of being deposited by terrorists. Mr Douglas Hard, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said.

Mr Harold McCusker (Upper Bann, OUP) called for legislation to require banks, on ministerial instructions, to deposit with the High Court moneys suspected either of belonging to illegal organizations or of being destined for use in furtherance of terrorist activities, such moneys to remain on deposit for a specified period during which the custodian of the funds may seek to prove that they were for lawful purposes.

Mr Hard said: We are examining our existing powers.

Mr McCusker: The Government of the Irish Republic is to be

concerned by the speed and determination with which they tackled the suggestion that large sums of money were being deposited in their bank for use by terrorists.

If it is not yet in a position to do the same in Northern Ireland, nevertheless detailed scrutiny of the financial of Provisional Sinn Féin might yield very interesting results.

Where does the organization find the money to run a full-time office of sophisticated equipment which is used to spread propaganda through the world? Where do they get tens of thousands of pounds to fight the elections they have over the past few years?

Mr Hard: I entirely agree with him. I agree with his comments on the action of the Irish Government and agree with him that one of the areas a robust security policy has to concentrate on is precisely the source of funds for the Provisional IRA.

We all know of the money they receive from the United States, and the Prime Minister has taken vigorous action about that, but there is also the money they derive from all kinds of fraud and rackets throughout the island of Ireland and the RUC is now spending more time and effort on precisely this area.

Mr Michael Langan (Rutland and Melton, C): Unless he comes up with some better idea as a result of his review, will he start with the basic proposition he should at least make the anti-terrorist activities taken by the Irish Republic tantamount to the funds of these terrible people?

Mr Hard: We have the powers on the Statute Book now. They are comparable to those which existed before in Ireland: the Prevention of Terrorism Act, the Emergency Provisions Act, and the Theft Act. These powers exist already and are formidable taken together. We are now looking urgently to see if they need to be enforced.

Arts Council head says critics' views are provincial

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

Sir William Rees-Mogg, chairman of the Arts Council, has criticized sections of the artistic community for seeming trapped in a dated and provincial set of attitudes.

He refers to their "post-Fabian *Guardian* consciousness of genteel and academic English collectivism" in an article in this week's *Economist*.

In his first lengthy reply to attacks on the council's funding policies, Sir William gives a warning that the arts cannot be safe if the artistic community continues to assume that it can rely on increasing subsidies.

"I am shocked by the number of performing companies who congratulate themselves on having built their taxpayers' subsidy levels to a lot more with half their total revenue. Any company so placed depends on the future of central government financial policy, over which it has no control, over which the Arts Council has no control, to a dangerous degree."

Sir William writes that whenever he sees Sir Peter Hall, the director of the National Theatre who has been in the forefront of the campaign

against the Arts Council, he thinks of Cardinal Wolsey: "O how wretched is that poor man that hangs on princes' favours."

He continues: "Arts Council subsidies are princes' favours, and the prince is not myself, nor Lord Gowrie... nor even the Prime Minister, but the will of the electorate."

"I am myself on the side of the National Theatre, but no more strongly than I would have been on the side of Clonbury Abbey."

Later in the article, part of a lecture to be delivered on Monday, Sir William adds: "I sympathize with the National Theatre, housed in that great concrete dreadnought on the South Bank... but I sympathize a lot more with the Everyman Theatre in Liverpool, on the edge of the worst area of social suffering and deprivation in England."

The National Theatre gets £6.7 million from the Arts Council; the Everyman, even after development, will get less than £250,000.

The great drawback to subsidy, writes, is that it can weaken the sinews of self-help

and create dependence, leading to demands for higher subsidy.

But Sir William is the subject of a personal attack by the writer, Michael Holroyd, a former vice-chairman of the Arts Council's literature department, in *The Times Literary Supplement* this week.

Mr Holroyd writes of Sir William that he is a "strange phenomenon" to see at the head of the Arts Council. "He is a magnificently plausible man whose after-dinner statements are a part of our performing arts. But on paper these statements lose something of their impressiveness, gaining in banality and a rather subtle lack of content."

"It says something about the structure of English institutions that such a man should occupy such a position. He has presided over an arts organization that has lost the confidence and trust of the writing community."

"Many of us who tried to work within the offices at 105 Piccadilly (the Arts Council) now feel like standing outside and throwing stones at its windows."

Sailors end sit-in after jail warning

Six Yugoslav sailors have agreed to leave their ship after a High Court judge said yesterday that they would be imprisoned if they failed to comply.

The six were already in defiance of a writ issued on March 1, ordering them off the *Freightliner One*, which they had occupied for five months. Mr Justice Sheen said that if the seamen had not been foreign nationals unfamiliar with English law, they would already be in prison.

Mr Vicent Wicks, the Admiral-

General, said that just as one did not buy a house with sitting tenants, he would be unable to sell the *Freightliner One* to recover the crew's back wages until they ended their occupation of the ship, berthed at Tilbury Docks, Essex.

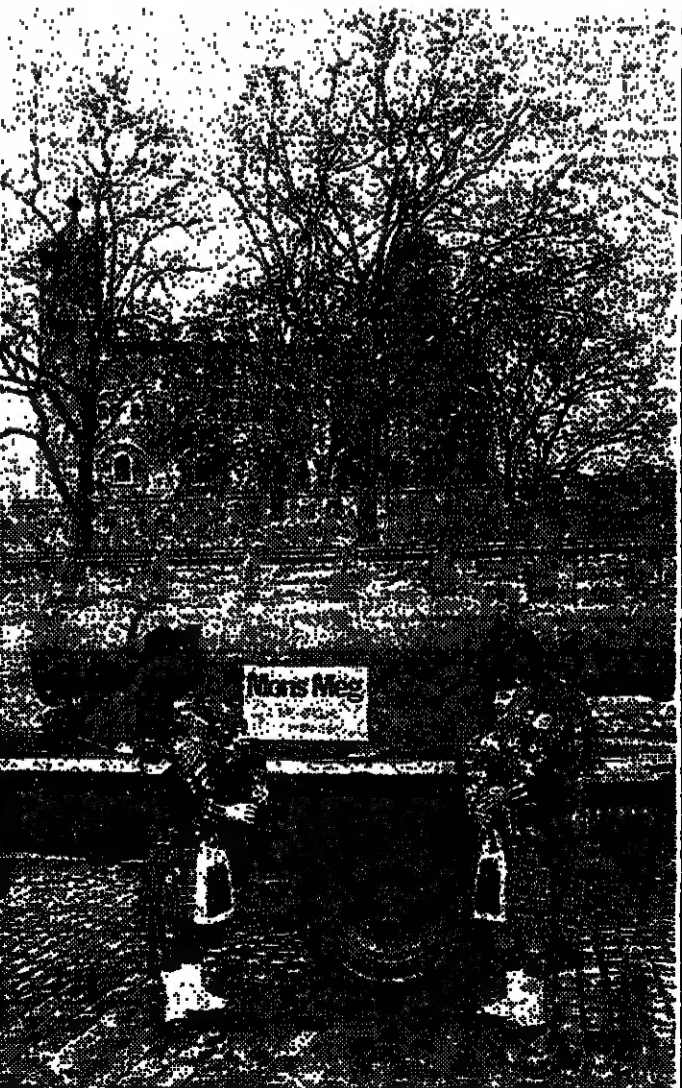
Besides the crew's demands for more than £150,000 in back wages, several creditors have filed claims for money from the sale of the *Freightliner One*.

Blundell & Crompton, the ship repairers brought the

action to have the sailors removed, and have already offered the men their air fares and £500 each as an advance on wages.

Five of the men plan to accept the offer, and then return to England to fight a court battle for their wage claims.

The sixth, Mr Avdovic Omer, the boatswain, has refused to return to Yugoslavia, and will stay in England until all his claims for more than £12,000 in back pay are settled.



Mons Meg back at Tower

Mons Meg, Edinburgh Castle's huge siege cannon, returned to the Tower of London yesterday for the second time in its 536-year life, escorted by two pipers from the Guards Depot Firing School.

The cannon, one of Scotland's national treasures, will remain at the Tower for four

days so that the Armouries of the Tower of London can carry out research into the construction of early iron guns.

The cannon has undergone thorough X-ray examination at the Royal Armourment Research and Development Establishment, in Kent.

(Photograph: Chris Harris).

Four cities come under fire as Iraq and Iran bombard civilian targets

Bahrain (Reuters) - Cities in Iran and Iraq came under attack yesterday as the two countries stepped up a wave of artillery and missile attacks on civilian targets.

Ignoring international appeals for restraint, Iraq hit Dezful in south-west Iran with missiles and Iran said it shelled the border town of Mandali in north-east Iraq.

Artillery also pounded the Iraqi post of Basra and Iran's devastated refinery city of Abadan, on opposite sides of the Shatt al-Arab waterway at the head of the Gulf.

The exchanges, which began on Monday, left in tatters a nine-month-old agreement between the two sides to halt attacks on civilian targets. The United Nations-sponsored accord last June came only after weeks of missile, artillery and air strikes on towns both sides of the border which left hundreds of civilians dead.

Senior Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, joined in a call for restraint by the Security Council's president, Mr. Blaise Diagne of Madagascar, and the UN Gulf war mediator, Mr. Olaf Palme of Sweden, said the pact had saved thousands of civilian lives.

Iran said at least five people were killed and more than 70 were wounded, many of them hospital patients, in the missile attack on Dezful. It also



reported three dead in the shelling of Abadan.

Mr. Tod Robberson, of Reuters, reported from Basra that shells were falling at the rate of two a minute in a bombardment which began around mid-afternoon. More than 60 hit the city in an earlier attack just after dawn. Officials said there had been casualties in the shelling.

The Iraqis imposed a round-the-clock curfew in Basra, a city of a million people, and its streets were deserted apart from military and civil defence teams.

Iran first shelled Basra on Tuesday night, in what it said was retaliation for Iraqi strikes on a steel plant at Alveez and an uncompleted nuclear plant at Bushehr, which killed 11 people.

The Speaker of Iran's Majlis (Parliament), Hojatoleslam Ali

Akbar Haseemi Rafsanjani, said yesterday that retaliation was the only way to stop the Iraqi attacks. "It seems we have no alternative but to retaliate as powerfully as we can," he told the Majlis.

A military spokesman in Baghdad said Iraq had the greater firepower and warned the Iranian people to press their leaders to stop attacking Iraqi cities, "or they will suffer more".

Iraq, which earlier warned Iran it would launch retaliatory strikes on 30 Iranian towns and cities, had so far restricted its attacks to the two Iranian cities "out of mercy towards the people of Iran," a military spokesman said.

Meanwhile, Iraq announced that its warplanes yesterday attacked a "large naval target" near Iran's Kharg island oil terminal in the Gulf.

A military spokesman described the attack as "effective and accurate". All the Iraqi aircraft returned to base, he added.

Iraq has in the past used the term "large naval target" to describe merchant vessels and sometimes oil tankers.

There was no immediate independent confirmation, Iraq has claimed 36 attacks on Gulf shipping this year.

Shipping sources in other Gulf countries have attributed nine hits this year to the Iraqis.

Israelis put on alert for Syrian assault

From Christopher Walker, Jabal Barouk, Lebanon

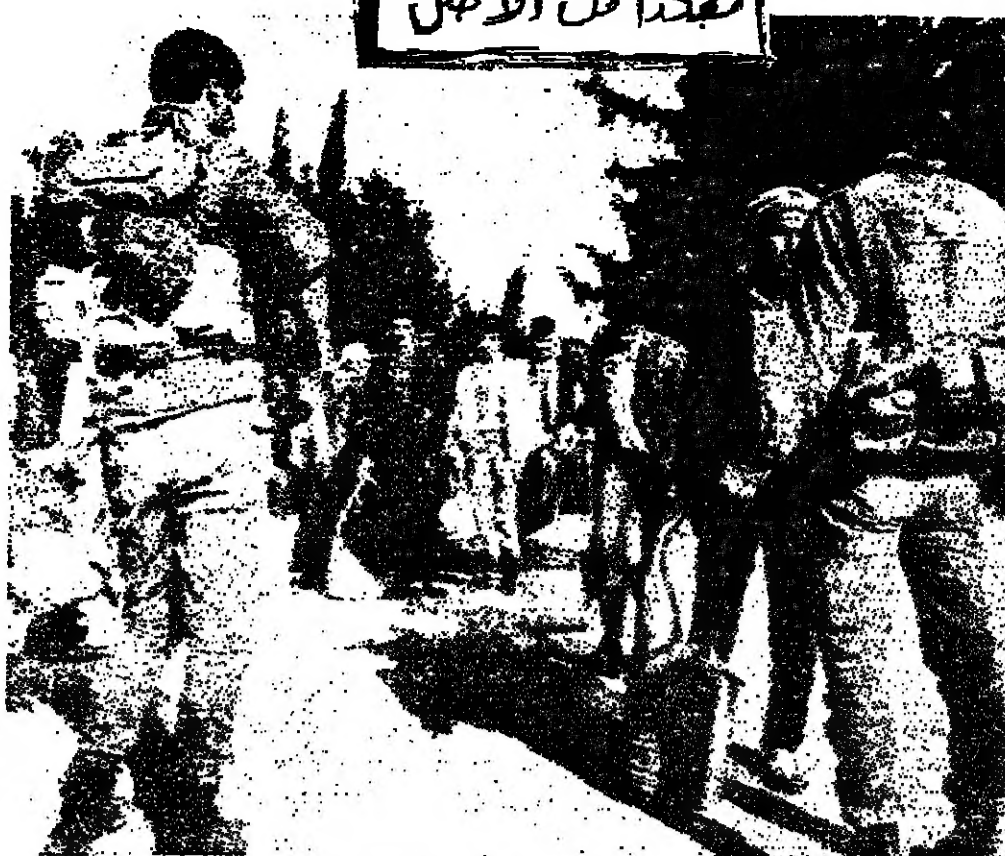
Israel's forces in eastern Lebanon have been placed on special alert to guard against a surprise attack by the 40,000 Syrian troops and their 800 tanks based inside the country during the second - and strategically most dangerous - stage of withdrawal to the border.

The latest part of the three-stage pullback has begun, with dozens of heavily-laden Israeli trucks rumbling south as building and fortifications are dismantled at a speed which reflects the troops' enthusiasm to end the occupation as soon as possible.

One deserted hut about to be removed from a fast-disappearing camp on the shores of Lake Karoun, told its story about the Army's falling morale. There, among the peeling pin-ups and Hebrew graffiti, was a large calendar which the Israeli occupiers had crossed off each day until their departure.

According to senior officers, the only factor which could spin out the disengagement from Syrian lines is severe weather which has piled snowdrifts 12ft high on the road leading up to Jabal Barouk, Israel's mountain-top surveillance centre.

I was able to reach the 6,000-ft high post yesterday but only after giant snow ploughs had cleared a path. Starting down at Syrian fortifications, including



Road check: Israelis examining Lebanese villagers' papers east of Tyre.

Soviet-built anti-aircraft missile sites, it was clear why the post is regarded as the most valuable prize of the 1982 invasion.

"From here we can see everything in Syria and even northern Iraq," said one Israeli officer.

Another did not deny that the US uses the forest of electrical devices to spy on the Soviet Union.

Colonel Victor Avi, the region's articulate young commander, was asked about the sacrifice Israel will make when

the base is abandoned - and probably reverts to Syrian control.

"As a soldier, of course I am sad. But as a citizen, I prefer to live within Israel's borders. You have to place a limit on areas you are going to keep just for strategic reasons."

Using powerful East German field glasses capture from a Palestinian infiltrator shot on the mountain, the colonel detailed Syrian deployment clearly visible in the valley below. He was unmoved by an

artillery shell explosion in the distance. This is Lebanon. How can I know what caused it?" Asked what Israel had gained from the war, he said: "A few more problems."

"I blame myself partly for what happened, because I and other officers in similar positions did not speak up in 1982."

"I think the Army achieved its main goals within a week of invading. We should have left then, with dignity rather than having to retreat as we are now."

Blast kills seaman on Soviet ship

Moscow (AP) - A seaman died and five others were injured in an explosion on a Soviet tanker in the Baltic port of Ventspils on Wednesday night, a Latvian official in Moscow said.

The explosion occurred about 10 minutes after dockers began loading diesel fuel on board the 16,400-ton Ludvig Svoboda.

The tanker was seriously damaged in a fire caused by the explosion and windows in port buildings were blown out by the force of the blast.

A Finnish shipping source said earlier the tanker caught fire and sank.

Duke's tour

Niamey (Reuters) - The Duke of Edinburgh discussed the preservation of the ox, a large antelope threatened with extinction, with President Seyni Kountche of Niger before leaving for Mali on the third leg of his African tour.

Tuskers' tasks

Gland, Switzerland (AP) - Indonesia has begun a programme in which elephants endangered by encroaching civilization will be relocated and taught to perform useful jobs, according to the World Wildlife Fund.

Botha rebuff

Cape Town (Reuters) - South Africa has rejected a plea from Mr. Edward Kennedy and 26 other US senators for the release of anti-apartheid activists facing trial for treason.

Kremlin outlines the risks at Geneva

From Richard Owen, Moscow

With only a few days before the opening of crucial new arms talks in Geneva, the Kremlin's chief adviser on US affairs has said the agreement between the superpowers may prove "practically unachievable".

Dr George Arbatov told the newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda* yesterday that Soviet-American relations had reached a watershed. "We have reached the point where it is clear as never before that we must take a decisive turn toward normalization," he said. "But there is a great danger that this turn will not place. We have reached the turning point, and any delay in taking long overdue positive decisions will make the complex business of agreement on arms control practically impossible to achieve."

Dr Arbatov, head of the US Institute in Moscow, said that in the two months since Mr. Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, and Mr. George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, agreed on the framework for the new Geneva talks the United States had taken several steps "which make you seriously wonder whether the Reagan Administration really wants arms control at all".

The Russians have made it clear that their priority at the talks is to put a stop to the Reagan Administration's "Star Wars" research programme. The talks also cover medium range and strategic missiles, and Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, expressed concern that these issues might

be overshadowed by disagreement on "Star Wars" technology when he paid a lightning visit to Moscow this week.

Dr Arbatov attacked Washington for raising doubts about Russia "as an honest partner" by listing Soviet arms treaty violations, and accused Mr. Genscher of pressing Congress to agree to expanded military programmes rather than the reverse.

● WASHINGTON: President Reagan yesterday discussed the Geneva arms talks with Mr. Vladimir Shcherbitsky, a member of the Soviet Politburo who is heading a 33-member delegation of the Supreme Soviet on a goodwill tour of the United States (Nicholas Ashford writes).

Although statements made by the two leaders before their meeting revealed deep differences in their approach to the Geneva talks, American officials said they hoped the meeting would "usefully contribute to building a more constructive relationship".

● MELBOURNE: Mr. Shultz will visit Australia in July to plan bilateral defence arrangements in the wake of New Zealand's virtual exclusion from the Anzus treaty (Tony Duboudin writes).

Mr. Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, made the announcement in Canberra yesterday and said the visit underlined the importance Australia and the United States continued to attach to their relationships under Anzus.

Pan Am pilots cross the picket lines after vote

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Pilots for Pan American World Airlines began crossing picket lines yesterday after their union voted to return to work in the first breakthrough in the week-long strike against the beleaguered airline.

The strike, begun a week ago by a walkout of the 5,700-member Transport Workers' Union, has resulted in cancellation of most domestic flights and sharp cutback in international flights. A Pan Am

spokesman said the airline, using management staff has been able to operate at between 20 per cent and 30 per cent of its capacity.

Mr. Edward Acker, praising the agreement with the pilots association, said Pan Am hoped to return to 50 per cent of capacity by next week.

The week-long strike has created confusion and long delays in booking flights on alternative airlines.

Blizzards stop rescue of Britons

By Kenneth Gosling

A third attempt to rescue two members of an expedition trapped on Brabant Island in Antarctica was abandoned yesterday when blizzards made it impossible for a helicopter to reach them.

Lieutenant-Commander Clive Waghorn, leader of the joint services expedition to the island, is lying with a broken leg, suffered in a fall into a crevasse, 2,500ft up on a mountain ridge. With him is Lance-Corporal Kerry Gill who is uninjured, and who was seen by an aircraft on Wednesday, waving outside their tent.

A spokesman for the expedition, Surgeon-Lieutenant Howard Oakley, said last night that the survey ship HMS Endurance was lying off the island with a naval helicopter waiting to take off. "But it's blowing a blizzard and they are unable to fly."

The weather is unlikely to clear before today which means the pair have spent nearly a week on the mountain.

Paris turns into city of the old

From Diana Geddes, Paris

"The population of Paris is getting smaller, lonelier, older, and more foreign, according to an analysis of the 1982 census, published yesterday. Half of all households in the city now consist of only one person, usually a divorced, widowed, or single woman. That is double the national average."

Foreigners account for 17 per cent of the population, compared with 7 per cent for the nation as a whole. North Africans make up the largest category of foreigners, followed by Spanish and Portuguese.

The number of people over 75 living in the city has increased by more than a third over the past 20 years, and now accounts for 8.5 per cent of the population. The proportion of people under 20 has decreased over the same period from nearly 29 per cent to 18.5 per cent.

The total population of Paris now totals 2.2 million people, 600,000 fewer than 20 years ago.

There is one place a telex won't go to.

Telexes and in-trays just don't mix. A telex tends to go straight into the hands of the person it's intended for.

Perhaps it's the sudden arrival that gives telex an urgency which demands attention.

Or it could be because telex has a certain status - people send one when they really mean business. But it wouldn't lose that status by being used every day.

After all, a telex is faster than just about any other method of written communication you care to mention.

It gets to its destination in next to no time, whether it's half-way round the world or half-way down the road.

It's quick too because the language is so simple.

People expect to see the minimum number of words, so it takes little time to compose.

And when it's sent, an instant copy is produced so you don't have to worry about photocopies.

So why don't more people use telex more often?

Could it be that a lot of them believe telex machines are big, noisy, ugly and antiquated?

If so, that couldn't be further from the truth.

The machines are now small, quiet, attractive and very modern.

Small enough to fit comfortably on a desk top (it's about as wide as a golf-ball typewriter), although you can have it on its own stand if you like.

Quiet enough to sit comfortably in your office. (It now registers a mere 48 decibels, compared to a quiet living-room's 40dB and a



typing pool's 60dB.)

Attractive enough to look good on this page and in your office.

And modern enough to have its own repeat-dialling and word-processing facilities, plus a memory for stored messages.

(You can also set it to send the same message to several addresses automatically.)

Some models even have a screen so the sender can see the whole text set out before it's despatched.

Anyone with international contacts will find another feature particularly useful.

You can programme the machine to send a telex at any given time. So you won't have to wait until late to send information to Brisbane.

Or, for that matter, to Wagga Wagga. Yes, even businessmen in far-away Wagga Wagga are using telexes these days. (It's in New South Wales.)

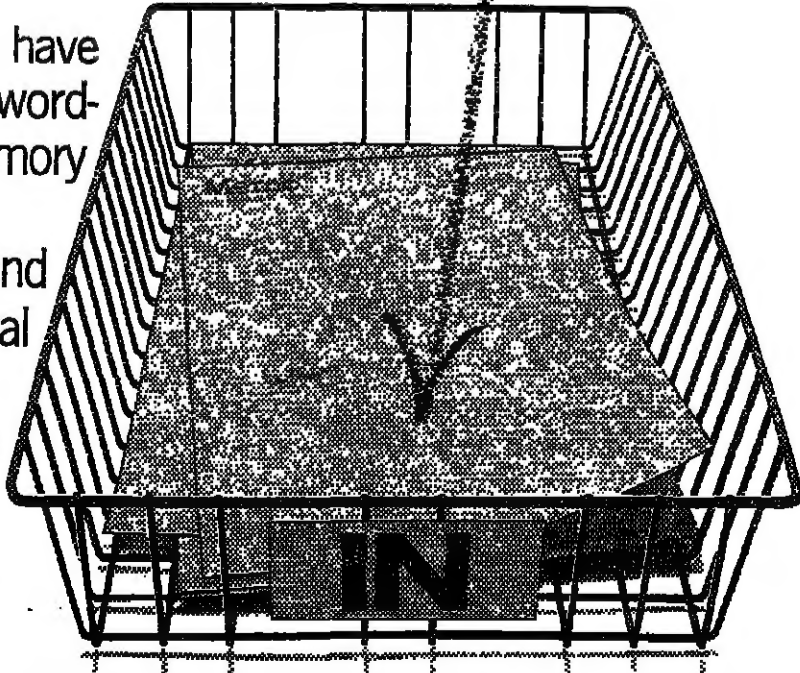
Actually, there are now over one and a quarter million in two hundred countries world-wide, not including almost 100,000 in this country, which is an advantage in itself.

It's more than ever you want with will have one. matter whether Wales old or New.

If you'd like us free information modern telex, coupon. Though to 'bypass our in-what to do. Our printed below

likely that who-to do business And it doesn't they're in South

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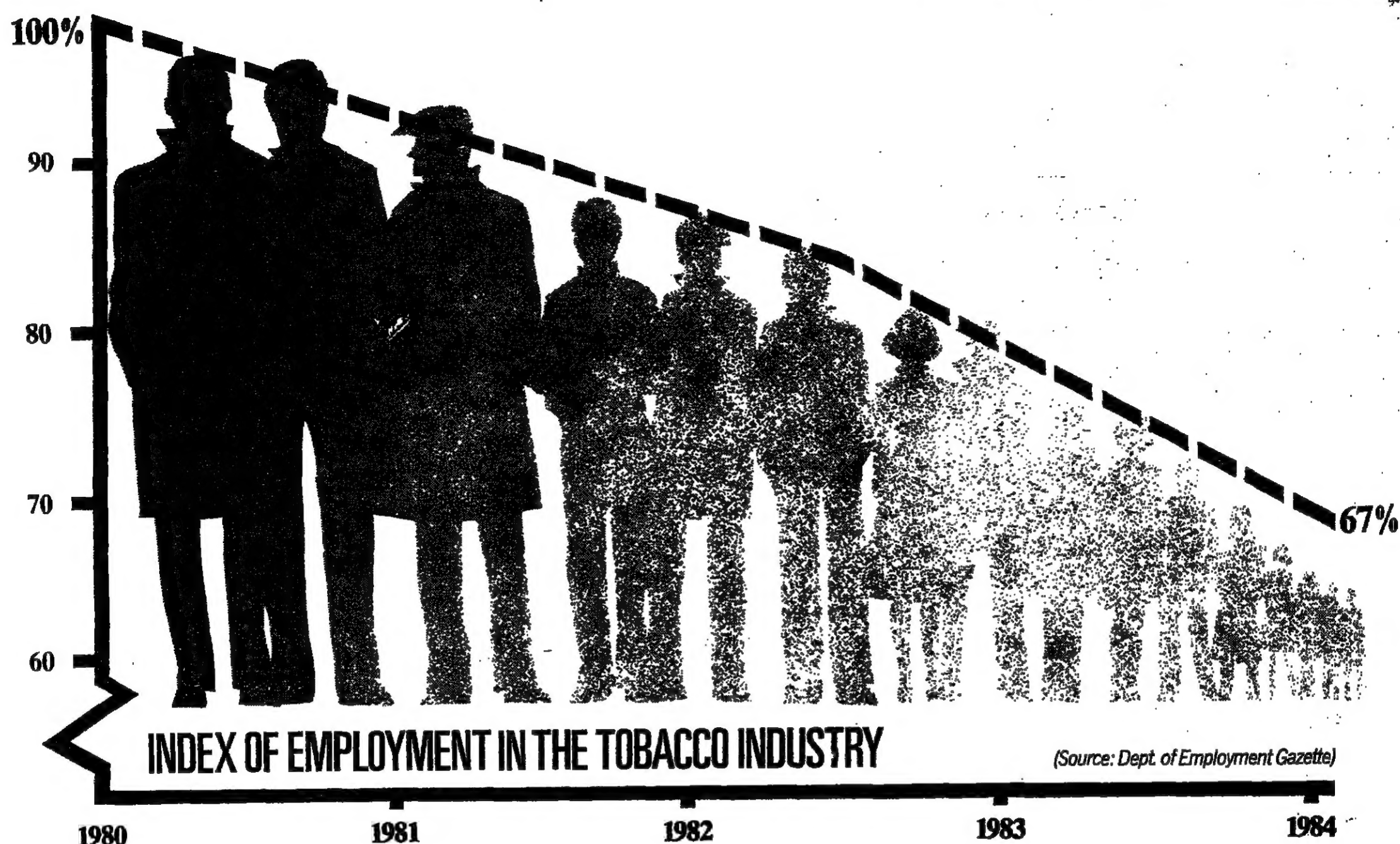
Name _____ Company _____ Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel. _____ I am particularly interested in: ☐ Machines ☐ Calls ☐ Lines ☒ As appropriate

British TELECOM

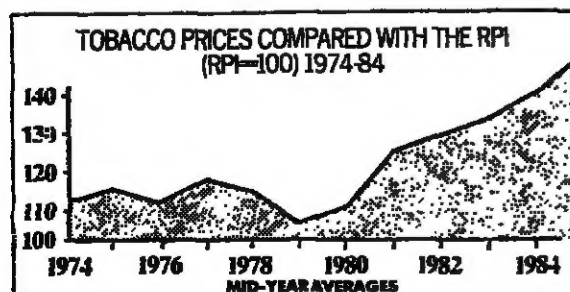
Get on in business. Get on the telex.

Why unfair tobacco taxation makes the dole queue longer



Punitive tobacco taxes are weakening the tobacco industry, have already cost thousands of jobs and are threatening thousands more.

The situation is even more critical when one considers the knock-on effect on distributive and retail trades and other suppliers. For every job in the tobacco manufacturing industry there are seven others dependent upon it, mainly in distribution and retailing. Over the years, taxes on tobacco products have made cigarettes among the most heavily taxed goods in the country. In fact, tax now accounts for 73% of the cost of a packet of cigarettes.



GRAPH SHOWS EFFECT OF DISCRIMINATORY TAX INCREASES ON TOBACCO IN THE LAST 5 YEARS.

The last five years have seen the harshest increases in cigarette taxation - which have directly contributed to the loss of 50,000 jobs in the tobacco and related industries.

Factories closing

Factories have been closed and many jobs have been lost at those which remain open.

To make matters worse, traditional centres of tobacco manufacture are in areas of already high unemployment like the North East, Bristol, South Wales, Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow, Nottingham and Northern Ireland. All are threatened with the loss of more jobs in tobacco.

2,000 shops closed

In addition, small shopkeepers are among the worst affected by unfair tobacco taxes. Since 1979, more than 2,000 small retail tobacco businesses have closed down, with the loss of many thousands of jobs. And for every

one of these small businesses which actually fail, three are in trouble.

The Prime Minister rightly makes speeches about the contribution which enterprise can make to small businesses, while the Chancellor's tax policies systematically destroy a vital business opportunity for people with independence and drive - the

What the Prime Minister has to say...

"It is the spirit of enterprise that provides new jobs... And the role of Government in helping to do that? It is in cutting taxes, cutting inflation... removing obstacles to the growth of small businesses, for that is where many of the new jobs will come from - small businesses."

Mrs Thatcher, Conservative Party Conference, Brighton, 1984

people who run the corner shops.

And this deprives local communities of important social services.

Import threat

The UK taxes on cigarettes are among the highest in Europe, and significantly higher than those of France and Germany. Punitive tobacco taxes not only weaken our industry and make it less able to defend its markets (export as well as domestic), they also give foreign manufacturers an unfair advantage.

More on the dole?

The prognosis is clear. The British tobacco industry must not be further weakened by excessive taxation.

It already contributes almost £5 billion a year to the Exchequer.

The Government must play fair and not single out tobacco for punitive taxation. Otherwise, even more workers in the tobacco and related industries will find themselves in the dole queue.

Play fair on tobacco taxation

ISSUED BY THE TOBACCO ADVISORY COUNCIL, GLEN HOUSE, STAG PLACE, LONDON SW1E 5AG.

The famine in Africa

Bush hints at more US pressure on Ethiopia over aid for refugees

Mr George Bush, Vice-President of the United States, hinted yesterday that Washington would step up its pressure on Ethiopia to allow the free passage of food to the famine-stricken provinces of Eritrea and Tigray in spite of their struggles against Addis Ababa.

Speaking at the end of his four-day visit to Sudan, Mr Bush said: "I would hope the leaders of Ethiopia would allow the maximum possible relief in their country."

Mr Bush added that the sight of desperately ill children in the refugee camps of eastern Sudan, into which more than a million Ethiopians have streamed recently, made him think about how more governments could be persuaded to help the refugees.

It is possible that how to send more assistance to potential refugees inside Ethiopia, and so to prevent the burning of an already over-strained Sudanese economy will be raised by Mr Bush at a conference of aid donors in Geneva on Monday. Before then Mr Bush is scheduled to visit Mali and Niger.

Port pledge was broken relief official claims

Assab, Ethiopia (NYT) A Senior relief official said here, that Ethiopia was not honouring a pledge to keep three berths at this Red Sea port continuously available for the unloading of food for famine victims.

"This is disappointing," said Mr Desmond Taylor, deputy representative in Ethiopia of the World Food Programme, "particularly in view of the assurances at the highest level that emergency food supplies would be given priority."

Ethiopia had agreed earlier that relief aid would have priority over other cargo and that three of the six berths at Assab would be available at all times for unloading relief shipments. The World Food Programme has been coordinating the arrival by sea of relief supplies in Ethiopia.

In January, Mr Kurt Jansson, the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General in charge of emergency operations in Ethiopia, complained to government officials that ships delivering Soviet-made military equipment were occupying the relief berths while ships were moved soon afterwards and Mr Jansson said the Government had reconfirmed its commitment regarding priority for food.

From Michael Prest, Khartoum

On Tuesday Mr Bush appealed to the Ethiopian leaders to open up their eastern ports and allow food to be transported across country. This emerging and strengthening American policy is welcomed by the Sudan Government which has quietly been encouraging relief organizations for some months to send food over the border to limit the flow of refugees.

It is also welcome to the liberation movement which has been in a quandary over whether to allow their people out of Tigray and Eritrea and risk their bases being permanently weakened by their population loss.

The Tigre Peoples Liberation Front, which claims that 3.8 million of its five million population are severely affected by the famine, has repeatedly urged donors to send food and supplies directly into the province.

The Ethiopian Government has been deaf to these requests so far. It does not see why it should succour its opponents, and unless the Americans are prepared to stop their huge food

shipments to the rest of Ethiopia, a difficult move in light of Mr Bush's commitment to "humanitarian" aid, The Ethiopians are unlikely to change their minds.

Yesterday Mr Bush signed an agreement with the Sudan Government for the release of another 151,000 tonnes of food aid, worth \$21 million (£19.6 million). The food is part of existing American commitments.

During his stay here Mr Bush and senior officials, including Mr Chester Crocker, the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, discussed with President Nimeiry the terms on which further US assistance might be forthcoming.

Mr Bush declined to elaborate at his press conference, beyond saying that there had been "very frank discussions" about relations between Sudan and the International Monetary Fund, and about Sudan's shaky finances. No formal agreement with the IMF, which could unlock aid from other donors, is in sight, but it is clear that the Americans are continuing to press for economic reforms, especially for a bigger role for the private sector.

Clinging to hope, page 12



Beauty on parade: Ten finalists on stage at the Canton hotel in the first beauty pageant staged in China since 1949.

Mugabe says tourists were murdered after cry for help

From Jan Raath Harare

The Government of Zimbabwe has concluded "quite definitely" that the six foreign tourists abducted by anti-government guerrillas in 1982 are dead. Mr Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's Prime Minister, said yesterday that investigators had established the six were

killed in a small village three days after their abduction on July 23, 1982, after a forced march into the Lupane area, in North-West Zimbabwe.

The murders took place about 50 miles from where the tourists' lorry was stopped by a guerrilla roadblock on the main road to Victoria Falls, 45 miles north of Bulawayo.

There were two Britons, two Americans and two Australians in the group. The Britons were Martyn Hodgson, aged 35 at the time of the abduction, from Peterborough, and James Greenwell, aged 18, a student from London. Kevin Ellis, aged 24, from Seattle, and Brett Baldwin, aged 23, of California, came from America, while the

two Australians were William Butler, aged 31, from New South Wales, and Tony Bajzelz, aged 25, from Tasmania.

Mr Mugabe said that on the third day of their capture, the six had been herded by the gang of 22 guerrillas into a small hut while the guerrillas lay in ambush some distance away. Security forces, under in-

structions to intensify the hunt not far off the trail, increased aerial surveillance by helicopters. One of them flew directly over the hut.

"One of them screamed as they heard the helicopter, in the hope that the screams and shouts would be heard. But no one did, except the dissidents," Mr Mugabe said.

Pravda blames West

Moscow (Reuters) - Pravda yesterday accused the US and other Western countries of exploiting famine in Africa to impose their political and economic policies on the continent. Commenting on Mr Bush's trip to Sudan, Mali and Niger, the newspaper said he did not conceal that his aim was to promote economic reforms in the region "and prod African countries on the road to unfettered capitalism".

were otherwise in use, donor nations should be willing to divert their ships to Massawa, further north in the region of Eritrea, or to Djibouti.

Such a proposal was put forward after the incident involving the military equipment, but several donor nations, including the United States, rejected it.

Chernenko misses gala in Moscow

From Richard Owen Moscow

President Chernenko, who recently reappeared after a two-month absence looking ill and weak, yesterday failed to attend a gala meeting in honour of international Women's Day with other Politburo members. Instead, the senior party position was occupied by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, who was 54 last Saturday.

Mr Chernenko, aged 73, was shown in carefully-edited television films during the local Soviet election on February 24 and shortly afterwards. He had difficulty walking and talking, and both occasions were dominated by Mr Viktor Grishin, aged 70, the Moscow city party leader.

Mr Grishin attended yesterday's meeting in the Bolshoi theatre, which consisted of speeches and a concert. But Mr Gorbachev led the Politburo on to the stage with Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Prime Minister, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister.

He charted confidently with both men as Valentina Tereshkova, the former cosmonaut and now head of the Soviet Women's Committee, condemned the "exploitation" of women in the West.

Libya says Britain still colonialist

From John Earle Rome

The Anglo-Libyan talks held here on Tuesday brought results which "were positive, even if Britain on the whole has not given up its colonial and imperialist mentality". Mr Abdurrahman Shalgam, Libya's diplomatic envoy to Italy, said yesterday.

In the first Libyan statement here since Mr Stephen Egerton, the Foreign Office assistant under-secretary, had a confidential meeting with his Libyan counterpart at the Italian Foreign Ministry, Mr Shalgam blamed Britain for "continuing to support Libyan criminals".

Mr Shalgam, head of the Libyan Peoples' Bureau here, also told a Rome newspaper: "We are in no hurry to resume diplomatic relations with London. This is not oxygen vital to our survival."

He criticized Italian authorities for failing to bring to justice the killers of two Libyan diplomats, the former head of the bureau and the press attaché, in Rome. "The Italian authorities are not seriously committed to looking for the criminals," he said. These people belonged to the National Front for the Salvation of Libya.

Botha enlists patriotism in support of cuts

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

President Botha of South Africa yesterday appealed to public servants to show their loyalty and patriotism by accepting the cuts he has imposed in an effort to resolve the worsening economic crisis.

In a statement in Cape Town he said he accepted there was unhappiness over the decision to cut their bonus as by a third, but "the time has now come to do what we sing in our anthem *Ons vir jou, Suid Afrika*."

The line from *Die Stem* translates literally as: "We're for you, South Africa," but official English translation renders it as: "O South Africa, dear land." It is increasingly evident that South Africa is becoming a very dear land to live in.

It was noted yesterday that Mr Botha was possibly facing his gravest crisis since he assumed the leadership of South Africa more than six years ago

and that he was showing signs of strain.

The *Rand Daily Mail* said the President, who turned 69 in January, looked tired and gaunt on Tuesday when he announced the bonus and that he appeared to have lost a lot of weight.

His steps to cut the Government's enormous wage bill, which will undoubtedly be followed by a harsh budget on March 18, threaten to result in big defections to the ultra-right Conservative Party by many of the country's 600,000 public servants, traditionally stalwart government supporters.

In addition, the right-wing is poised to capitalize on any more reformist steps taken by the Government to appease black grievances.

Mr Botha is aware that should the Government take repressive measures against black unrest this would fuel the divestment campaign.

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Murder of police chief seen as attack on Basque self-government

From Richard Wigg
Madrid

Lieutenant-Colonel Carlos Diaz Arkotxa, chief superintendent of the Basque autonomous police force, was killed yesterday in Vitoria, northern Spain, when a bomb blew up the official car in which he was going to work.

ETA, the Basque terrorist organization, was blamed for the killing by the chief Government spokesman in Madrid. The Basque government condemned what it termed "a frontal attack" on the self-governing institution of the Basque people.

The Basque police force was not directly involved in the anti-terrorist struggle in the region, a task reserved for Spain's national police and the paramilitary Civil Guard.

The murdered police chief had refused any kind of personal protection. Senor José Aranzana, the Basque chief minister, said.

Colonel Arkotxa, aged 52, was a Spanish Army major. He became head of the Basque police, the Ertzaintza when it was first set up.

He was the 51st Spanish officers to be murdered either by ETA or Grapo since Franco's death.

Senor Narcis Serra, the Defence Minister yesterday pointed out the significance of the fact that Colonel Arkotxa was both a police chief and an Army officer, and sounded a more cautious note than has been heard here for some time about ending quickly Basque terrorism.



Colonel Arkotxa: Rejected personal protection.

The Basque chief, according to Army intelligence sources, had been threatened in the past by ETA after the discovery of some of their terrorist plans by the French police.

Colonel Arkotxa, who was on his way to the Basque Police Academy yesterday, had stopped at a cafe near a petrol station on the road from Vitoria to San Sebastian. It was not clear whether the terrorists had placed the bomb under the seat of his car while he was in the cafe or whether it had been in place beforehand.

When the police chief started the engine there was an instant explosion. Doctors at the hospital where his shattered body was taken said they could do nothing.

This was the first murder

attack on the Basque autonomous police force. However, individual policemen have been shot at by terrorists and two years ago when the Ertzaintza officially took over ordinary police duties from the Civil Guard their San Sebastian barracks was raided, netting a large haul of brand new arms for ETA.

The facade of the Spanish Navy's San Sebastian headquarters was badly damaged on Wednesday night by a bomb attack. It was the second in a year. An anonymous telephone caller accepted responsibility for the bombing on behalf of the ETA.

While the Basque government was badly shaken and declined to attribute immediate responsibility, Spain's ruling Socialist Party urged all Basque democrats to face up to the fact that they were all terrorists targets.

The police force was the creation of the Basque Nationalist Party in power in Vitoria and the killing came amid a bitter leadership crisis in the party.

The tense atmosphere in the Basque country is also due to allegations by the Basque extreme left-wing Peoples Unity Party that extreme right-wingers plotted in Madrid the assassination of one of the PUP leaders in Bilbao last November. The Ertzaintza is reported to be looking into the affair.

Three months after the murder of Dr Santiago Brouard in his Bilbao surgery the Government has yet to bring anyone to trial.

Hong Kong takes step to widen democracy

From David Bonavia
Hong Kong

The most extensive elections held in Hong Kong took place yesterday amid signs of apathy on the part of the public. The Government will be happy if there is a 40 per cent turnout of the registered voters.

Five hundred and seven candidates were contesting 237 seats on 19 district boards in Hong Kong, Kowloon and the New Territories. Campaigning had been muted, and attention was focused on the environment, housing and schools.

There had been little discussion of the wider issues of Hong Kong's future such as the drafting of a new basic law for the territory to go into force when it reverts to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

Consistent with Hong Kong's past image of corruption, a man was found guilty of trying to blackmail a candidate by threatening to disrupt his election campaign unless he was bought off. But perhaps it is laudable that only one such case came to light.

The candidates mostly seemed to be on the young side, although they went all the way from the late twenties to the seventies in age. There was a huge preponderance of men, and middle-class people. There were only 30 women candidates.

The district board elections may have been unexciting, but they are a necessary first step on the road to the widening of democratic procedures in Hong Kong to create a stable basis for regional autonomy as part of the People's Republic of China.



Making his choice: Sik Kok-Kwong, a Hong Kong Buddhist leader, casting his vote yesterday.

US exporters face China loan pressure

From Mary Lee, Shanghai

British industrialists are finding it difficult to compete in China without making "soft loans" to the Chinese. Several members of the trade delegation now in China and led by Lord Young, Minister without Portfolio, privately expressed dissatisfaction with British Government policy on this matter.

One industrialist who appears to be in full agreement with the government policy is Mr. John Glasscock, of British Aerospace, who had difficulties with the Civil Aviation Authority of China over the price of aircraft. The Chinese apparently want about £1.8 million of spare parts free, in addition to buying 10 of the 146s at a price which could mean a loss for BAe. Mr. Glasscock said BAe was prepared to arrange loans for the Chinese authority "but at commercial rates".

BAe has been negotiating with it on the 146 for about three years, and the price of the aircraft has risen, which makes meeting the Chinese demands even more difficult. Even so, Mr. Glasscock said, "detailed discussions will continue with hope of an early agreement".

Lord Young said: "Both Premier Zhao Ziyang and Vice Premier Li Peng said they hoped a place would be reserved for the 146 and that both sides would continue to negotiate."

The clearest public hint of the problem facing British heavy industrial exports in China came from Mr. Roger Kingdon, chief executive of Davy McKee. He said: "It is clear that contracts will be won only with

EEC split over how to handle the 'friendly' car

From Ian Murray, Brussels

All cars on the roads of the EEC will have to be "friendly" towards the environment by the middle of the 1990s. Community environment ministers meeting in Brussels agreed yesterday. But they were deeply divided on how and when the friendly car should become commonplace and compulsory.

It was essentially an argument between those who wanted to stop forests dying, led by West Germany, and those who wanted to stop the European motor industry dying, led by Britain.

The two senior West German ministers present showed how concerned the Bonn Government has become by the fact that as the Black Forest trees die, the votes of the Greens grow. Next Sunday there are elections in two of the Länder.

The presence of two British ministers showed that there is now a real danger that the European motor industry can be swamped by Japan in the next decade if it does not develop the latest technology. Both countries wanted the strongest team to argue the case, aware that tens of thousands of jobs and votes hung in the balance.

The British argument is that West Germany has been panicked into demanding a system of car exhaust controls which can be satisfied only by forcing all vehicles to use an expensive

and outdated technology. Mr. William Waldegrave, the British Minister, said yesterday that this confused the means with the end and was not a solution.

The favoured West German means to the end is a catalyst converter to be bolted into the exhaust system which would destroy many of the noxious fumes as it fires, leaving only tiny amounts to be expelled into the air. That could not be in wide use until the middle of the next decade.

In Britain's view the catalyst converter is obsolete technology. Mr. Waldegrave argued that it burns 5 per cent more fuel than the present car engine. In contrast, the "lean burn" engine favoured by Britain would consume 15 per cent less fuel.

The converter, he argued, would cost about £500 a car plus annual maintenance costs of £90. There would also be the replacement cost after four years of use. In contrast, the "lean burn" engine would add no more than £70 to the price of a car.

Most important of all, the Japanese manufacturers were now perfecting lean burn engines.

Howe urges EEC to keep veto rights

By Henry Stanhope
Diplomatic Correspondent

Members of the European Economic Community should retain the right of veto on issues which threatened their national interests, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said last night.

But the right should not be abused and a country which exercised it under the so-called Luxembourg Compromise should be made to explain fully why.

Sir Geoffrey, speaking in Milan at the Centre for Instruction and Study of the European Community ruled out an early British decision to participate fully in the European Monetary System.

The present state of the money markets, given the fluctuating dollar and the price of oil, still made this a difficult time to do so. But "to steal James Bond's phrase we have never said never", he said.

After the accession of Spain and Portugal the EEC would have 315 million people, many more than the United States. It accounted for 20 per cent of international trade already.

The total annual cost of all the barriers to free trade within the EEC was a horrifying £6,600 million, he said. Britain wanted to see Europe united as a market and as a political entity.

Leading article, page 15

Helicopter deal makes Seoul angry

From David Watts
Tokyo

South Korea has called again on the United States for clarification over the illegal export of Hughes Helicopters to North Korea earlier this year.

In a second letter to Washington, the Government also seeks the results of American investigations into the sale of at least 17 Hughes 500 helicopters to the North. The total Pyongyang received could be as many as 85.

The South Koreans are dissatisfied that their earlier complaint about the helicopter sale has not produced tangible results beyond Washington revoking Hughes's West German agent's export privileges in the US.

The helicopters enhance North Korean capability in two important areas and, since the South operates the same type, they could be easily used for infiltration with false South Korean markings. The North has a formidable force of crack commandos that the South believes would be sent immediately to rear areas to cause chaos in the event of war.

Now North Korea's helicopter force consists of outdated Soviet models. The sale opens up the question of whether the North will be able to get advanced military equipment through the Chinese.

Mechanical heart man has second transplant

Tucson, Arizona (Reuter) - A 32-year-old unidentified man kept alive with an experimental mechanical heart for several hours yesterday received his second transplanted human heart within three days.

Doctors at the University of Arizona Medical Centre said the mechanical heart was his only chance of survival. A spokesman said after the latest operation that there were complications.

The device, known as the Phoenix Heart and still to be approved by the Food and Drug Administration, was implanted after a transplanted human heart failed. It is worked by compressed air.

"We did not set out to do a human experiment," the medi-

When villains start working 9 to 5, so will we.

Like most other white collar workers, police officers work at least eight hours a day, five days a week.

HARROW: An old lady hasn't been seen for a few days and the milk is piling up on her doorstep. A Woman Police Constable breaks in and finds her dead on the floor. Foul play? The Inspector and Police Surgeon are called in.

There the similarity ends.

In a place like London, accidents, football matches, demonstrations, crime, tourists, and the like keep us busy twenty four hours a day, seven days a week.

And since quite a lot of our work involves dealing with London's anti-social elements, anti-social hours are what we tend to work.

You could find yourself up well before the lark on Early Turn, 6am to 2pm.

Or you could be putting in a hard day's night while most law-abiding folk are comfortably parked in front of the television.

Look on the bright side, though. While everyone else is slaving away at work, you can spend an afternoon in the garden or at the squash club.

So much for routine.

There's not much chance of anyone settling into a comfortable routine in the Metropolitan Police.

It's one of the few occupations where you can turn up for work and not have an inkling of what the day holds in store for you. You could be called to the scene of a fatal accident, or an armed robbery.

Or you could spend the afternoon in a community centre helping to sort out old people's problems.

Every day, you'll find yourself in situations that demand something different from you.

By turns, you'll be a tourist guide, marriage guidance counsellor, diplomat, child psychologist, criminologist, self defence expert, first aid specialist, lawyer and speaking clock.

Every one of these jobs requires different individual qualities.

FULHAM: A bomb reported in a shop doorway. Chief Inspector and C13, Anti-Terrorist Branch called out to assess the situation. The Explosives Officer confirms our worst suspicions were unfounded. Better safe than sorry.

You need them all to get into the Metropolitan Police Force.

How do you measure up?

First of all, you must be at least 168cms tall if you're a woman and at least 172cms if you're a man.

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Nevertheless, people who've got a string of 'A' levels won't get in if they don't possess all the right personal qualities.

You'll need a lot of common sense, a genuine concern for people, a strong sense of fair play, an agile mind in a fit body and a well developed sense of humour.

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A copper earns every penny.

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CLAPHAM: An officer in a Panda Car spots a suspiciously parked van. He investigates and finds three men doing a clothes shop. He gives chase and with assistance nabs two of them. A good night's work.

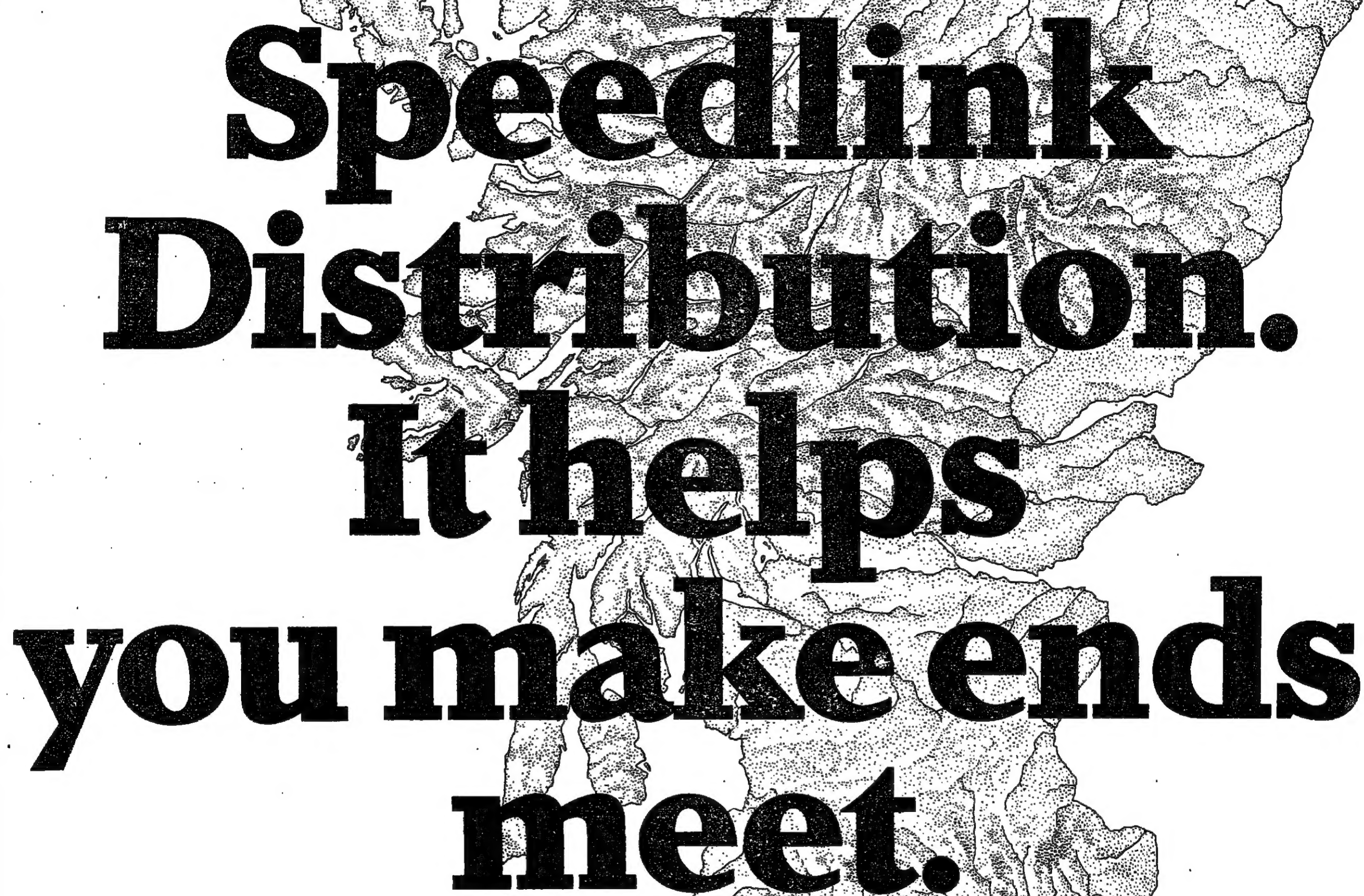
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SPECTRUM

Paul Valley reports from famine-plagued Ethiopia
on the nuns fighting to hold back a traditional
farming community from the edge of the precipice

Clinging to hope amid the hunger

A refugee camp is a distillation of human misery. Its wretched inhabitants parade their daily desperation before an international audience of visiting politicians, relief officials and television crews like actors in some grisly play.

Yet behind the dramatization is a more everyday reality which encompasses the lives of those millions of farmers who have not been driven to seek refuge in the feeding camps. Part of the tragedy of Ethiopia today is that the future of such people is no less bleak.

It was a woman who had a house, a healthy family and enough food for that one day who, in Wolayta, took the food, gave it to her children and then, as they ate, went out and hanged herself.

Wolayta is an awraja, a county-sized region, in the southern province of Sidamo. It has always been known as a fairly fertile area: though it was never one of the parts of Ethiopia which could produce large food surpluses for export, it was never affected by the droughts which for centuries have plagued the highland farmers in the north. It was a place where, if people could not be said to have lived well, very few starved, and in the past 25 years the population increased fourfold to almost one million.

But in 1983 the rains failed in Wolayta too. That year only a quarter of the usual rainfall was recorded. The main harvest in September and October was a dreadful failure. By the beginning of last year the peasants had exhausted most of their small stocks of food and the area had entered in the ratchet of decline from which a subsistence agriculture, once entrapped, finds it difficult to disengage itself.

The 1984 rains were better but nowhere near sufficient to prevent the ill effects of the previous season from being carried over - dry soil, weak oxen, poor seed corn. In the summer months, when an inadequate sweet potato crop, the area's second harvest, had been finished more than 500,000 people, over half the awraja's population were suffering severely from the effects of famine. Somewhere between 30,000 and 50,000 people died. No one is sure of the exact figure.

Today things do not augur well for 1985. Already most of the maize from the October harvest is gone, the sweet potatoes will not be ready for another six weeks and, when they are, they certainly will not last until the next main harvest.

It was against this background that Hugh Goyder, the field director of Oxfam in Ethiopia, visited Wolayta recently to review the progress of not just the famine relief work his organization is funding but also the state of its long-term development projects. Oxfam began these eight years ago to ease the subsistence farmers away from the edge of the economic precipice on which they eke out a bare livelihood.

The road south of Addis Ababa is a bumpy, dusty dirt-track. Evidently the Italians in their brief colonial

stay did not think there was anything in the south worth building a proper road to. By the time we reached the little town of Areka two days later, our Land Cruiser and its contents were covered with a fine red film of dust. But Wolayta, as we descended into the awraja from the Kali mountains which stand between the region and the capital, seemed lush and verdant.

It is deceptive. It was like this last year and yet people starved to death. We called it the green famine. There were crops standing in the fields but when you examined them you found the husks were virtually empty, the field director explained.

Oxfam's work in the area, along with that of the Irish agency, Concern, is based at the Dubbo Catholic Mission which is housed in a long low building alongside the church, school and Italian priests' hostel. Aroused by the echo of our progress through the Areka valley, a tiny figure in the grey habit of the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady waited on the mission steps. This was Sister Colette, an indomitable Yorkshirewoman of 67 years with a genial smile and a shrewd, beady glint behind her horn-rimmed glasses. Her canny financial sense and breathless schoolgirl enthusiasm



Oxfam's Hugh Goyder: 'We can't pull out now'

have sustained the Dubbo Mission for eight years and other projects in Ethiopia for the past quarter of a century.

There were five aspects of the mission's work which Hugh Goyder, together with Oxfam's emergency nutritionist Cathy Gibb, wanted to inspect: its famine relief, its health education scheme, its out-patient clinic, its night shelter for those too ill to return home after feeding, and its drinking water projects. The Oxfam team also wanted to assess the extent to which immediate relief work was distracting people and money away from the development projects, which are ultimately the only way of forestalling the famine relief work of the future.

The tour of inspection got off to a poor start when the Oxfam officials discovered that the three-man spring capping and water protection team, which they were funding, was currently engaged in building a garage. "They're very good workers but at the moment there's no one to supervise them," said Sister Colette, smiling and waving at the cherry trio who were hammering nails into wooden spars. Spring protection had taken place on 34 sites but had lost its momentum when the Concern volunteer who masterminded it returned to Ireland after two years in Wolayta.

"What we need is a full-time water engineer. Can you fund one?" asked the ever-hopeful Nun. "We'll have to see," mused Goyder. "What we may be able to do immediately is divert one from elsewhere."

It was 8.30am and Sister Colette's various teams and the four Ethiopian nuns who work with her were leaving the mission - Sister Agnes to the textile workshop where the local women spin and weave; Sister Francisca to teach at the Italian school; Sister Marie to run the clinic; Sister Gabriel to supervise the mother and child health care programme which visits a different village every day; Maggie, the Concern nurse from Drogheda, to the in-patients' night shelter; and a team of local men and women to distribute supplementary rations to seriously malnourished children in surrounding villages.

"We have doubts about the efficacy of the supplementary feeding," explained Hugh Goyder as he drove up a steep cattle track towards the peasants' association at Ambe. "We want to find out how much grain the government is distributing here and whether our supplement is worthwhile or whether we should axe it." This is the problem at the other end of giving: deciding when to stop, or alter, or go somewhere else where the money would be better used.

The pair from Oxfam sat and watched for an hour as the local team put children in their improvised scales and checked their weight-for-height ratio to determine the degree of malnourishment. Hugh Goyder became more hesitant as he watched.

"You come out from Addis with all sorts of ideas but when you get in the field they change," he said afterwards. "You have a theory but when you see the state of these people and realize that we can't pull out now, even if our supplement is in fact their only food, because the government is not getting enough grain out."

"In theory it is an expensive way to feed people - to use high quality supplementary food for their whole diet, but is there a practical alternative? There is another lean period coming up. And at least this scheme keeps people in their own homes and doesn't destabilize the society by moving everyone to centres or camps."

It was a slow hour's drive to Bombe and the night shelter which proved to be one of the most depressing places I have been to in Ethiopia.

The 400 children there are in need of intensive feeding and are too weak to return home at night. It was just before the meal time. The only European present was Maggie Darragh, a midwife from a smart modern hospital just outside Dublin, was working in a stifling tent in the grip of malaria. Her skin had a yellow pallor and her brow was feverish as she toured the tents.

All around were pitiful little piles of skin and bones, children who had



Children from Wolayta and the nuns at Dubbo Mission. From left: Sisters Marie, Francisca, Gabriel, Agnes and Colette

lost their subcutaneous fat and even their muscles. One, a seven-year-old boy called Garama, could have been picked up with a single hand. She put him on a drip in the intensive care tent. "Look at the state of him. What's wrong with him? Everything. I'm treating him for marasmus, TB, dehydration, worms and dysentery."

In the TB tent she came across a pair of one-year-old twins, one twice the size of the other. Flies crawled around inside the open mouth of the smaller. "The problem in this part of the world is that if a mother thinks she can't feed both she just abandons the weaker," she shook her head in disbelief and waved her hand to disperse the congregation of insects.

"I was in Zambia for three years but I've never seen anything like this," she said, wiping her hand through her hair in a gesture of total bewilderment. "These people have no idea: they use the same rag to mop up urine and wipe a child's eyes. They just accept the coming of death - if he won't eat, he won't eat. I have to force-feed many of them."

It was a desperate sight to see her at work, rushing from one child to another, wedging her palm against their chests in an attempt to keep the milky porridge down. As she moved to the next, as often as not, the child spewed the vital liquid down its naked chest.

"People at home think all you have to do is send food and the hungry will eat it. But they don't, their whole body rejects it." She was

on the edge of collapse as Hugh Goyder persuaded her to go back to the mission to rest.

"It's easy to lose your sense of perspective when you visit a place like that," he said afterwards. "You have to tell yourself that this number of children would die in an area like this even in a good year. This is a country where half the children born die before they reach the age of three."

It is in an attempt to lower statistics like these that Sister Colette, eight years ago, founded a



Maggie Darragh: 'I've never seen anything like this'

mother and child health education programme. "We had it at three clinics in the area and thought it was quite successful until last year, when the drought came, and we discovered that people were dying all around us and we didn't know about it. After that we decided to take the programme into the villages. They have 17 kebeles, peasants' associations in each village, which we visit in turn, one a day."

That day it was held in the village of Alfarma Bancha where 200



women were sitting with their babies in the shade of the fence of an abandoned protestant evangelical church closed not long after the revolution. An Ethiopian nurse was addressing them and asking at the end of every few sentences: "Ishe?" to which the women chorused "Ishe" in reply.

"It means OK, they understand," explained Sister Gabriel. "She is telling them to boil water and wash hands and not to use the river as a latrine." Outbreaks of cholera are reported all over the region at the moment but, as far as the limited information can indicate, it seems that the death rate from it in this area is lower than normal.

"One must assume that is because of these health education sessions, together with the fact that people are used to attending clinics which they are not in other areas," said one local doctor. The fact that many of the nearby water sources have been capped and cleaned is another element.

But elsewhere the problems were increasing and the resources diminishing. The nuns were still paying the running costs of the clinic they had built two years ago, despite the fact that the government had promised to take over the running expenses once it was complete. Transport for the supplementary feeding programme was becoming prohibitively expensive. "Any chance of a Land Rover?" The ever-enterprising nun enquired.

Back at the mission, over a

cosmopolitan dinner of fish and chips for the Europeans and wot and enjera, the national staple dish of spicy stew and sour pancakes, for the Ethiopians sisters, the Oxfam team reviewed the day.

There was no worry about the awful Bamba night-shelter: two new Concern volunteers, a doctor and a nurse who happened to be husband and wife, had arrived that day from County Cork with their four-month-old baby to take over the mission's medical work.

The concern was that the long-term work was going by the board: the rejuvenation of the water project would, at present, be only temporary and the mother and child programme was slowly becoming overextended as the number of villages which needed attention increased. It was running out of money too for cod liver oil, vitamin supplements and standard clinic medicines.

As always, the immediate needs of feeding and healing people seemed to come before the development work which was designed to prevent them from getting malnourished or ill in the first place.

"There is only one real answer to that problem," said Sister Colette, ever mindful of the opportunity: "More money." But it seems that the scale of the famine problem in Ethiopia, now in 12 of the country's 14 provinces, has become so vast that development work will be pushed to the background for some years to come.

Jane Ewart-Biggs, UK president of UNICEF, describes the drought-stricken panic of the refugees and people in Sudan

What do you want to be when you grow up? - Alive

There's an ever increasing sense of panic in Khartoum and the only topic of discussion is the drought.

The overwhelming problem facing the Sudanese government and relief workers is not only the refugees from neighbouring drought-ridden countries, but the swelling number of displaced people within Sudan itself.

The members of the international aid, development and relief agencies use an exotic language in their work. "A pocket of nasty malnutrition at Athara" was reported at a meeting in Khartoum I attended in February. This meant that several thousand hungry and exhausted nomads, driven from their traditional mountain grazing areas by lack of water and having lost all their livestock, were camping round a little Nile town. Athara's medical services, food and fuel were at breaking point. But, with the typical generosity of the Sudanese, the townspeople had welcomed and assisted the interlopers.

A few months ago another "nasty pocket" developed at Omdurman, on the outskirts of Khartoum itself, when 80,000 people arrived after days on foot or by truck. They had sold their remaining livestock and jewellery to buy food.

Relief workers arrived to set up around them the minimum structure to preserve life. Three French women from Medecins Sans Frontières dispensed EEC food aid; the Islamic African Relief Agency had set up a centre; a volunteer Sudanese doctor worked tirelessly from a medical tent and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) drilled a borehole for water. In contrast, the government, embarrassed at this camp so near to the capital, did everything to urge the people to return to their villages.

I soon realized the full extent of the rescue operation. The



A life in the balance: Lady Ewart-Biggs in Sudan

drilling rig was continuously on the move, either providing water for displaced Sudanese or working at border refugee camps.

UNICEF aircraft rushed medical supplies to the South in response to an outbreak of "severe gastro enteritis" but returned to be cholera.

A joint Oxfam/UNICEF drought surveillance team in the Kordofan and Darfur regions assessed child malnutrition. Two hundred thousand oral rehydration sachets were sent to the refugee camp in the Kassala area. And so it went on.

The relief workers rush from one area to another trying to

central planning of water resources.

Irrigated land is used almost exclusively for cash crops of cotton, while food crops are obliged to depend on the rains. On another count, the civil war in the South has caused disruption and ended any economic gains which might have come from its oil fields. And now the influx of refugees from drought-ridden neighbouring countries has provided a crushing burden.

The crisis came to a head through the decrease in rainfall since the early 1970s, causing the failure of the last four harvests.

But I was fortunate enough to see another picture of the Sudan, one which demonstrated the way in which people, struggling against overwhelming odds, maintain a semblance of normal family life. I remember the women, tall and infinitely graceful, in their brightly coloured "dab", carrying the "zeer" of water on their heads and grateful for UNICEF's village hand pumps which had replaced the traditional and probably polluted, well far from their villages. And the excited gaggle of mothers in the South Kordofan village of Kalba gathered together with their babies for the immunization session.

Then there was the elation of the mothers at a scheme to generate a little income and give them a greater status in the village. Each woman was given a small allotment of cultivated land and a tiny grant, which allowed her to grow vegetables or rear chickens. They had composed a song in honour of the venture and sang it at the top of their lungs when we were there.

Neither can I forget the ceremony at Dilling for the graduation of a new batch of Community Health Workers.

We arrived a little late. It was getting dark. The open air ceremony had started with the graduates sitting on one side of the horseshoe and the midwives from surrounding villages in glistening white on the other side.

We sat down and by the light of one torch - in most villages there was no fuel to work the generator - and listened to the speeches and consumed, on sticky drinks, bananas and sweets.

But I will also long be haunted by another memory. I mean of those places where the old traditional wells had almost run dry; and the rains, even if they came, were still two or three months away. I saw the children drinking the remaining yellow stagnant polluted water and agonized at the thought of when that ran out.

The dark eyes of the child in

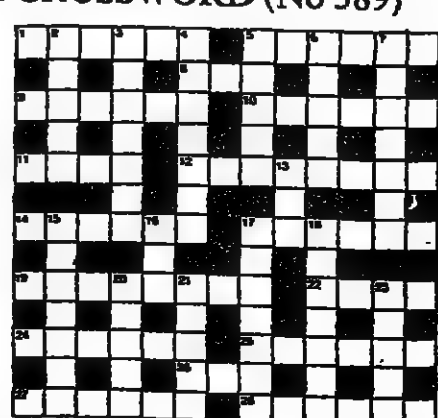
the poster on the wall of the UNICEF offices in Khartoum followed me down the stairs as I left for the airport. The caption read: "What do you want to be when you grow up?" "Alive" came the answer.

In the coming months many Sudanese children will be denied that wish. The only hope of averting a human catastrophe on a huge scale is for immediate and massive aid to be forthcoming in food and support for the international relief agencies, and for long term plans to be made to prevent future disasters.

I am old fashioned enough to go on believing - and I think there are many like me - that we are all members of a world community and that we have an obligation to help the people struggling for their very existence.

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ACROSS
1 Divided (6)
5 Ring seal (6)
8 Alford (6)
9 Meat slicer (6)
10 Antagonism (6)
11 In good health (4)
12 Rest pause (8)
14 Moon goddess (6)
17 Suitable (6)
19 Friendly (8)
22 Dury (4)
24 At once (6)
25 Paper's chief (6)
26 Pale (3)
27 Rearwards (6)
28 Fashionable (6)



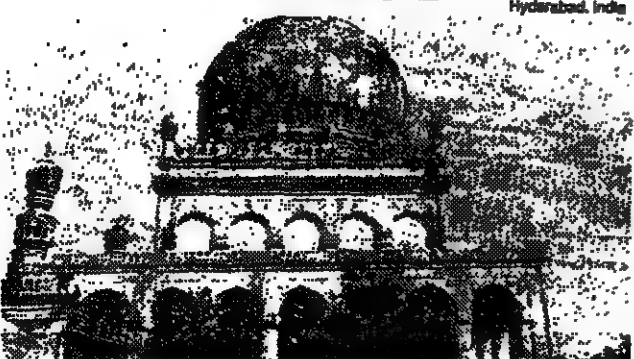
DOWN
2 Full (5)
3 Re-appraise (7)
4 Enduring (7)
5 City blockade (5)
6 Complete range (5)
7 Drastic (7)
13 Ventilator (3)
15 Upper arm bone (7)
16 Sheep noise (3)
17 Award (7)
18 Rough plan (7)
20 Paddle boat (5)
21 Lightly char (5)
23 Long blade (5)

SOLUTION TO No 588
ACROSS: 8 Inflexibility 9 Ere 10 Auditoria 11 Asset 13 Earnest
16 Desert 19 Faint 22 Chieftain 24 Die 25 Neighbourhood
DOWN: 1 Cinema 2 Offers 3 Reprieve 4 Riddle 5 Gift 6 Fierce
7 Tyrant 12 Sec 14 Refinery 15 Son 16 Decent 17 Spirit 18 Teapoy
20 Indoor 21 Treads 23 Fohn

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America's golden girl, Mary Decker, looks back over the seven traumatic months since she tumbled out of an Olympic track final

After the fall, Mary's still quite contrary

Can the British stop worrying about Zola Budd and learn to love Mary Decker again? Before the incident in the Los Angeles Olympics when Decker tripped over Budd's heel, dropped out of the race, and then unfairly blamed the barefoot waif, the American blonde had been the darling of the western media. She had been the Zola Budd of a decade ago.

A fourteen year old athletics phenomenon in 1972, "little" Mary Decker was one of the fastest 800metres runners in the United States but was judged too young to go to the Olympics in Munich. One of many injuries that have blighted her career prevented her going to Montreal in 1976 and then President Carter decided that the Americans should boycott Moscow in 1980.

Soviet women had dominated world middle distance running during that period. But Decker put that to rights in the first athletics world championships in 1983. She won two gold medals, leading all the way in the 1,500 metres and 3,000 metres, and beating off the challenges of Soviet runners in both races.

The unsuitable American media reflected the Reaganite return to cold war attitudes. "Little" Mary Decker had repulsed the Red Menace. It was a line that most British papers were glad to reproduce. The tearful recriminations of Los Angeles a year later changed all that.

Her performance at the post-race press conference earned her the title of Whiner Of The Year from USA

Today and it didn't earn her a lot in contracts. Her agents will concede that probably two major endorsement contracts were lost. America's golden girl had become the Wicked Witch of the West.

Suddenly commentators remembered a similar incident from the past when the then 15-year-old, sporting pigtails and teeth braces, had flung a baton at a Russian athlete who had bumped her on the anchor leg of a relay. Decker picked up the baton, jogged tearfully down the straight, and had another shy at her opponent. The skeleton of a Puerto Rican woman whom Decker had pushed in the back during an indoor race two years ago was also dragged out. "Little" Mary might be more than equal to the Red Menace but she didn't stand a chance against

Olympics - but the Mail blocked it, says Mary.

Her attitude to the press in general was not enhanced by pushy photographers at her wedding ceremony in Crawley last Saturday to one Briton who certainly loves Mary Decker - and sufficiently well to go through a second wedding ceremony with her. Saturday was a re-run of her January marriage in Oregon to Richard Slaney, the British discus thrower whose family lives in Crawley.

"I've never seen anything like it", says Decker. "Richard's sister was pushed into the mud. It just makes me a little more callous towards the press." That callousness was immediately evident last Tuesday at the offices of the International Management Group, the agents who evidently had to persuade Miss Decker to do the interview.

In an effort to break the ice with a manifestly nervous Miss Decker, I asked when they were returning to the United States. "We're going on honeymoon first, somewhere warm, but we're not telling you where. We don't exactly trust anybody with journalistic credentials", she said.

It was not the best start to an interview. Her London agent winced but succeeded in luring a very suspicious and very large Mr Slaney out of the room, with an offer to "come and play with my desk computer". Mrs Slaney relaxed, probably as much as she ever relaxes, talking fast on the edge of her seat and shooting nervous glances of anticipation at the door



Champion style: Decker in action; and with her second husband, British discus thrower Richard Slaney



every time another outside door slammed.

She still refuses to admit she was wrong to blame Budd for the tripping incident, only going so far as conceding that she has a little experience of "back running" as the youngster. The incident happened while they were bunched with the eventual winner, Maricica Puica of Romania.

"I honestly feel it was a complete accident and the way I look at it, accidents are caused by somebody, and at this point I'm not prepared to talk about the cause or anything else."

To me it's irrelevant now. I don't want to say anything negative about Zola because I don't feel anything negative about her, but I do feel she was put in an unfair position with the press hype prior to it.

"There was this big match, and I mean, I didn't feel like there was a big match, and I'm sure she didn't. I was afraid to nudge her (in the race) to let her know she was moving in too soon, and the timidity was because of the press hype."

Decker is certainly right in her assessment of the "big match". There is no doubting Budd's potential, but if there was going to be a contest, it was always going to be between Decker and eventual winner Puica.

"I've always been a competitor, and I've always been emotional, and I think that's what makes me good. You might be praised for one side of it, but you have to realize that this is what makes the person, and I'm not a bad person. If I was, they'd have found out long ago. I've been around long enough. I haven't suddenly turned into an ogre." But to most people, including colleagues who publicly criticized her, she had.

She crept back home to Oregon to find solace in the ample arms of Slaney whom she had met two years earlier through Daley Thompson, who had trained with him. Slaney is evidently as large an emotional prop

as a physical one. He helped her through the traumatic separation and divorce from her first husband, marathon runner Ron Tabb.

"Richard was, is, a really compassionate person, and he helped me a lot. He wasn't making any passes at me. He was honestly being a friend. There was no romantic relationship going on. Nobody would believe that, but it was true."

It ceased to be true by mid-1983 and after her success in the world

warming to the interview or realizing the uselessness of her media-phobia, glances conspiratorially at *The Times* photographer, who is now snapping away, unaware of the previous mud-raising comments and mouths. "... except the press."

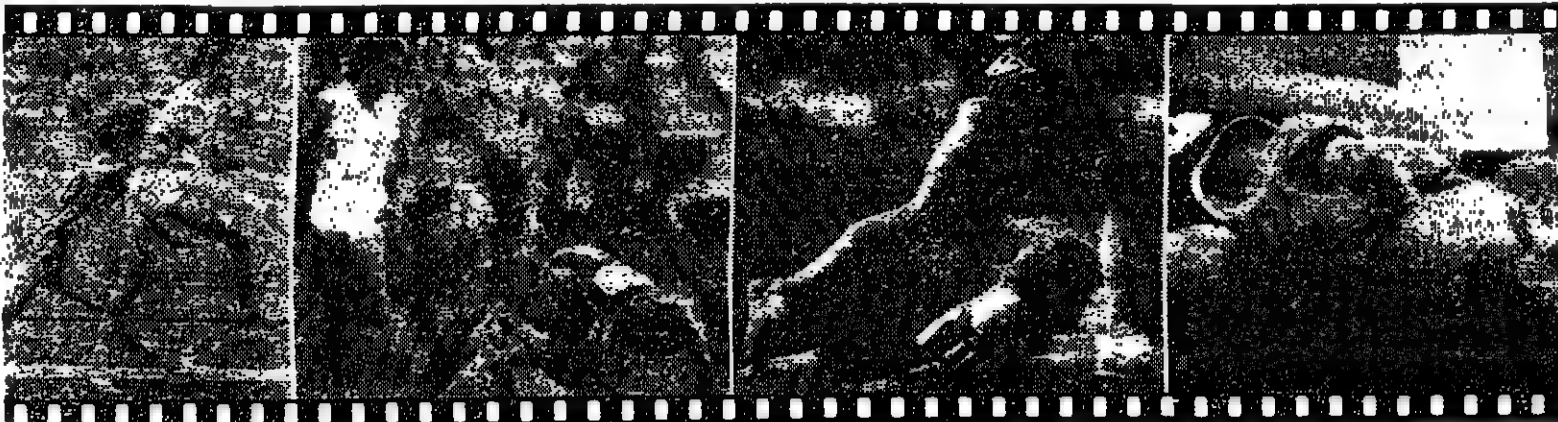
One of the great ironies, of course, considering the manner and the speed with which Budd (a South African with an English grandfather) got a British passport, is that Decker is now eligible for one and could theoretically run for Britain.

Decker is still only 26 and reckons she has eight to ten years left in the sport, which means two more Olympic chances. Current sports medical opinion is that women perform better after having a child, and that has been pencilled in for 1986. The target for this season is the 3,000 metres at the Grand Prix finals in Rome on September 9 where she expects to meet Budd.

Decker leaves on honeymoon today. As a going away present, let's give her the last word on the most famous collision since the Titanic and the iceberg. "The things that are remembered about me in 1984 are negative. The good things will stand out in my mind and over the years, there have been a lot of them."

Pat Butcher

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Touch and go... Mary Decker clips the heel of Zola Budd and crashes out in agony of the Olympic 3000 metres

MEDICAL BRIEFING

The kindest cut of all?

Tens of thousands of travellers to Brussels have brought back corkscrews modelled on the slightly risqué statue, Manekin Pis. A plaintiff in Britain sought and won £5,700 damages this week because a house surgeon who circumcised him failed to see that the skin was correctly aligned before he stitched the wound; thereby producing a minor variation of the deformity on the Belgian corkscrew.

Circumcision has been unfashionable in Britain since the war. Mr Norman Pitt, a Harley Street surgeon who gave evidence to the court, told *The Times* that he regretted this and did not see any sound medical reason for it. He agreed that there were occasional complications to the operation in the newly born but that it should be absolutely safe at a later age. He hoped that this mishap would not deter other surgeons.

The advocates of circumcision complain that the operation was accepted in the 1940s when medical care was not so meticulous and very different standards of sexual behaviour were common.

Research workers in Australia where the practice is still sufficiently widespread for comparison to be made, have shown that circumcision results in a marked decrease in the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases. Herpes and

gonorrhoea are twice as common in the uncircumcised; the irritating thrush and the dangerous syphilis five times as common.

Cancer of the penis, and a skin disease, BXO, are two other diseases which are exceptionally rare in those who have been circumcised early.

Mr Pitt, in his evidence, quoted some of the physical and psychological advantages to female partners. The future of one of these advantages, a very low incidence of cancer of the cervix, has recently been questioned by a report published in the *British Journal of Obstetrics* on a survey of Israeli women.

This has shown that intra-epithelial malignancy of the cervix is now common; either there is some factor in Jewish women which prevents these changes progressing to overt cancer, or the women are about to pay one of the penalties for modern sexual mores.

MYTHS

There are misconceptions about some differences between diagnoses and terms used to describe symptoms:

Lumbago: Not a diagnosis but a Latin term for backache. Sciatica: Not a specific disease, but the description of the pain which radiates down the sciatic nerve in the leg.

Jaundice: Many patients say "No doctor, I did not have hepatitis - I had jaundice". Jaundice is a name applied to the yellowing of the tissue of the body seen in infective hepatitis and other diseases.

Measles: Take the vaccine

The recent death from measles of two students at an American Christian Scientist University will have reinforced the current DHSS campaign to persuade people to have their children vaccinated.

A report from Newcastle in the *British Medical Journal* last month shows that over half of the parents interviewed in a recent survey had never discussed measles vaccination with a doctor or health worker. Measles is responsible for over a million deaths a year among the badly nourished children in the Third World - a mortality rate of up to 20 per cent. The comparable figure in Britain now is only 0.02 per cent.

Even if a fatal outcome in measles is rare it is responsible for a host of complications such as secondary infection of the ears and conjunctiva of the eyes. These can, despite the use of antibiotics, occasionally leave the patient with lasting damage.

The brain can be attacked by the measles virus. About one in a thousand cases develop encephalitis, a complication which is particularly distressing as it occurs just when the child seems to be getting better.

Measles has one very unpleasant, but fortunately exceptionally rare, complication - subacute sclerosing panencephalitis. In these cases the virus continues to live in the brain after the end of the acute infection. The slow damage only becomes manifest some years later when the child shows signs of mental retardation and fits.

Although measles is dangerous for a few, and misery making for most of its victims, only half of British children are vaccinated. The vaccine will give life-long protection for 90 per cent of those immunised. It is free of serious side effects in children with a normal immune system, except for a slight feverish reaction. Babies are not vaccinated until after they are a year old as up to this time they are still protected by circulating antibodies acquired from their mothers.

The vaccine can be used to control an outbreak as it may be given to those recent contacts who have not previously been vaccinated. They will acquire their immunity before the disease has had time to develop.

A stroke: Term applied to the injury to the tissue of the brain following damage to its circulatory system. It is not directly related to heart attacks. Describing a heart attack after a coronary thrombosis as a stroke is incorrect.

Rheumatism: A collective term for the troubles which cause pain in the joints, muscle or fibrous tissues; it is not a precise description or diagnosis. In fact the lay term "aches and pains" is a good translation.

Arthritis: It means inflammation of a joint; the term is not synonymous with rheumatoid arthritis.

Why tumours are a headache for GPs

Morning headaches in the pre-Christmas party season barely warrant a comment at the family breakfast table. But Sue Arnold, *The Observer* columnist (pictured), is one of those lucky people who do not usually suffer from headaches. So when, in December last year, she developed one she took action.

Initially the symptoms were partially controlled by aspirin, but she noted that although only fit to mope about the house during the day she felt well enough to attend parties in the evening.

On the fourth day, still suffering, she went to see a locum doctor who firmly diagnosed flu, an understandable mistake which must have been embarrassing to

him on the fifth morning when Sue had a fit. Neurologists, after seeing an EEG and brain scan, diagnosed a cerebral tumour.

Headaches are a constant source of anxiety to doctors. Apart from intracranial causes, any of the parts of the outside of the skull - eyes, teeth, sinuses, jaws, arteries and above all the neck, can be responsible.

Sue Arnold's story will make them even more anxious and mindful of their own past diagnostic failures. Only 2,500 patients in Britain develop a primary brain tumour each year, so statistically they are a very rare cause of headache.

In retrospect there were suspicious aspects to Sue Arnold's headache; there was no previous history of headaches, it was progressive, it was not cured by simple analgesics, but conversely it was not allied to drowsiness, vomiting, or

visual disturbance - symptoms classically associated with tumours.

Some change in Sue's character had been noticed by those who knew her well. She was not her usual self. Her headache, too, varied during the day; it was worse in the morning, better in the evening, but came back with renewed violence after a night's sleep; a pattern which is suspicious, but certainly not diagnostic of the presence of a tumour.

If anybody with a cerebral tumour could be described as lucky, Sue Arnold is. Her tumour, although large, was apparently a benign meningioma, and only 10 per cent of primary cerebral tumours are benign. It was removed without damage to the underlying brain so that all her faculties are preserved and her lifespan will be unaffected.

Dr Thomas Stuttford

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THE TIMES DIARY

Neil puts Foot in it

Neil Kinnock's considered judgement on Lord Tony's book by now celebrated memoirs is that it is "a splendid book by a splendid man". That, at least, was what he wrote to the publishers. Century, when they sent him a pre-publication copy. And that, I presume, is what will appear on the dust-cover of any future editions. Does that mean that the Labour leader condones Lord Tony's breach of confidence in reporting private conversations, which has so enraged Michael Foot, Jim Callaghan, Eric Heffer and half the Labour Party? "Er... no," says his press secretary, Patricia Hewitt, as a prelude to a confession. "To be honest, he didn't even skip through the book. Or if he did it was very big skips. He just wanted to help a former Speaker who had been a Labour MP. He was totally unaware of the problems the book would cause and the criticisms which Michael Foot has had of it." What was it Lord Tony's book? "Always tell the truth/No matter what it costs/He who hides the wrong he did/Does the wrong thing still". How true.

Royal rate-cap

The Queen, I hear, will be asked to pay an extra £284 in rates for Balmoral Castle next year. She has fared better than her subjects in the area, whose rates have been upped by an average of 18 per cent. The reason, I'm told, is that Balmoral is out in the sticks and therefore deemed "less easy to rent" than property closer to oil-rich Aberdeen.

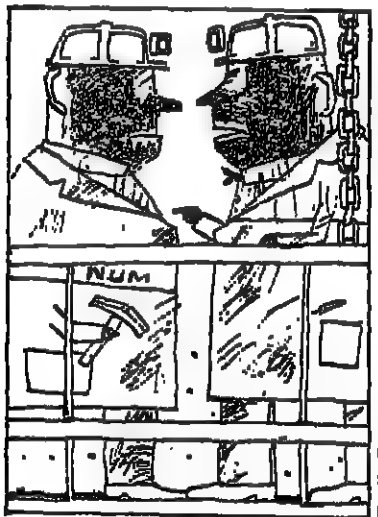
Barred

Anti-bomb campaigners planning to visit Molesworth for the mass demonstration at Easter will have a dry weekend. The Red Lion at Clonlon, the Fox at Catworth, the Cross Keys at Molesworth, the King's Head at Waddenhoe and the Green Man at Leighton Bromswold have already closed their doors to protesters, as has the Swan at Old Weston. "Quite frankly, they lack hygiene," says the latter's landlord, Gary Oliver. "I would like to capitalize on their presence but we either serve them and lose the regulars or ban them and keep the regulars." Except, of course, that if Greenham is anything to go by, the protesters will soon be regulars.

We shall C

When the first Command papers - ministerial green and white papers - were issued in 1983 they were simply numbered. The numbers became too high so the prefix CD (for Command) was used to begin a new series. For the same reason the prefixes CMD and then CMND were adopted. Almost 10,000 papers have now been issued with CMND. How long before Michael Heseltine and Co have to start issuing CND papers?

BARRY FANTONI



Starting to bite

The miners who marched back to Bilston Glen colliery in Scotland yesterday found things had changed in their absence. The outbidding that had served as the NUM office had only too obviously been used as a kennel for guard dogs brought in by the NCB. The board is quick to promise to find premises for them - before, presumably, the NUM calls its men out again.

Old medicine

When the Health Minister, Kenneth Clarke, stands up in the Commons on March 18 to argue the case for a list of prescribable drugs, opposition MPs may care to remind him of his answer to a question from a Labour MP, Roger Thomas, on November 22, 1983. As so many drugs are equally effective, did the minister plan to introduce such a list? Thomas asked. No, replied Clarke. "We are not convinced that such a list confining the judgment of doctors would be in the best interests of patients."

No returns

After hang-gliding from volcanoes and jumping from bridges on elastic ropes, the loonies from the Dangerous Sports Club have devised a novel entry for the St Moritz Classic Ski Race for "ski machines" on March 19. Twenty-five of them will negotiate the course in a double-decker bus mounted on skis and lifted to the mountain top by a US air force helicopter. The least of their problems, I imagine, will be avoiding another entrant in his Sinclair CS.

PHS

James Prior on reconciling economic rigour and social policy



How Thatcher could restore the balance

For an economist, the chief objective of economic management is to maximize the economy's output of marketable goods and services in the long term. For a politician, the objective is the same but with a number of additions and qualifications. A politician has, for a start, to have due regard to the social consequences of any economic policy, firstly to ensure that it is politically acceptable, and secondly because economic efficiency may be less important than ensuring social welfare. The latter may represent either a short or long-term trade-off, and on many occasions the two objectives will be complementary rather than competitive.

In addition to promoting economic growth, government will be seeking to keep often incompatible aims in equilibrium: a low level of inflation, a high level of employment, an adequate industrial base, a satisfactory long-term balance of trade, an equitable and efficient distribution of income, and (depending on the fashions of the time), a reasonably stable exchange rate that accurately reflects the nation's competitive position.

The range of instruments by which government may seek to achieve these objectives is impressive: monetary policy, fiscal policy, control over levels of borrowing and spending, industrial policy, trade policy, manpower policy and, at the very least, an extensive employer, pay policy. There are in addition the political instruments: exhortation and the setting of the climate in which economic decisions are taken by individuals and private industry. Rhetoric is a political instrument that the present government has used particularly extensively in trying to lower expectations of what can be achieved by government.

It is one of the great successes of the Prime Minister that she and her colleagues have substantially reduced public expectations about the role of government as universal provider and longstop. Government is now clearly seen to be fallible, and in many situations impotent, in the face of market forces. The present administration also deserves credit for reducing inflation substantially, for restructuring many of the nationalized industries to enhance their competitiveness, for its attention to aspects of the supply side of the economy, and for its pursuit of value for money in public programmes.

I had my well-documented differences with the Treasury over aspects of economic policy, particularly in the period 1979-81, when I believe it was too deflationary given prevailing international conditions. Nevertheless, during the latter part of my period in government, I found myself in somewhat closer sympathy with the general thrust of economic policy.

Now aberrations appear to be returning. I detect in some quarters a tendency for what is a proper appreciation of current limits on what can be achieved by government action to give way to fatalism, and loss of any vision of government's constructive role.

Unemployment is the key factor which must influence the course of economic management for the foreseeable future. It is the issue behind which political pressure for adjustments to be made to present policies will continue to build up. Equally, it is difficult to envisage progress in being made with the Government's objective of reducing public expenditure while the costs of unemployment benefit and social security remain so high. If one concludes, as I have, that high unemployment is likely to remain for a considerable period, then the likelihood is that the proportion of GDP devoted to the public sector will - quite correctly - have to remain substantial.

It is possible to argue, on a rigorous monetarist analysis, that having set out its monetary and borrowing targets in the medium-

term financial strategy (MTFS), the Government's primary role in the economy is fulfilled. However, governments have to administer policies in the world as they find it, not as model makers would have it be. The logical extension of the first proposition is that, having set out the MTFS, everyone should plan accordingly; and if one group of workers demand too much money and put either themselves or others out of work, that is their own fault - and the workforce as a whole must live with the consequences.

But in a situation in which excessive wage increases continue to be an important cause of steadily increasing unemployment, there has to be a point where, having identified this problem, government has to consider the case for intervention. The evidence is that all too often those who have lost their jobs have not been the ones who insisted on winning irresponsible pay increases.

Through careful adjustments to the tax system, either to aid small businesses or to increase incentives among the lower-paid, the levels of employment can be increased. A determined labour market policy should improve the employability of young people by giving them a structured transition between school and work, such as the Youth Training Scheme is designed to do, by raising their skill levels, government is already having a significant impact on unemployment. Through an imaginative and flexible industrial policy, including subsidies for restructuring ageing industries and promoting the use of new technology, and through careful use of public procurement, the Government can - and already does - reduce unemployment.

In addition, through policies at the international level designed to give new trading opportunities, to deal with the debt crises, or to stabilize exchange rates, government has a central role in creating the conditions for increased employment.

Acceptance that traditional full employment may not be attainable for the foreseeable future must surely have a profound impact on both economic and social policy. If the problem can no longer be solved by traditional economic management, then other means, principally social policy, must be used to ameliorate it. This Government has been slow to come to terms with the

fact that economic recovery alone will not be sufficiently dramatic to turn the tide of unemployment.

I regret that, in recent years, "social" policy has, in some circles, acquired connotations of intellectual flabbiness and evasion, lacking the rigour claimed by the practitioners of economic policy. To my mind, social policy in a democracy is an essential adjunct to economic policy. It should offset the undesirable effects of any particular economic policy and help to maintain the cohesion of the political unit in which economic policy is practised.

The mood of the country is clear: that unemployment is the greatest economic problem. I believe that most people give a lower priority to tax cuts, a higher one to expenditure programmes targeted to help those out of work. The incentive effects on employment and initiative of more cuts in direct taxation can be exaggerated.

Raising thresholds substantially at the lower end of the tax scale is an extremely expensive and ill-focused way of helping those families dependent on low incomes. By concentrating on this, government would help large numbers of young workers and married women, but relatively few heads of households. A tax cut I should prefer would be to raise, or at least stagger, the threshold for national insurance contributions, which currently bears heavily on the low-paid and acts as an incentive for employers to take on part-time workers as distinct from full-timers.

The greatest change in tax, which I believe should be introduced gradually, is the merging of tax and national insurance schemes and their integration with the benefits system. I can see no other effective way of tackling poverty or of removing the poverty trap and the residual unemployment trap.

The central point about the management of public expenditure in future is that a clearer distinction should be drawn between capital and current spending. It can be argued that the short-run economic impact of either is not dissimilar, but the long-term difference in terms of crumbling infrastructure is all too apparent. In the short term, the employment effects of many capital programmes are markedly less than direct spending on employment projects.

On the eve of the Geneva arms talks, John Barry outlines the choice facing the Kremlin

Can the nuclear road map lead to a deal?

This new doctrine: "For the next 10 years, we should seek a radical reduction in the number and power of existing and planned offensive and defensive nuclear arms, whether land-based, space-based or otherwise. We should be looking forward to a period of transition, beginning possibly 10 years from now, to effective non-nuclear defence forces, including defences against offensive nuclear arms. This period of transition should lead to the eventual elimination of nuclear arms, both offensive and defensive. A nuclear-free world is an ultimate objective to which we, the Soviet Union and all other nations can agree."

That, Nitzze said, would provide the basis for the US approach to the coming talks. The US will therefore urge the Russians to join it in developing a combination of offensive and defensive weapons. If they choose not to, the US will go it alone.

If Moscow wants to dissuade the US from the course it has set, it will have to propose some other way of achieving that end. The US is firmly convinced that it is up to the Russians to make an offer.

Hence the calm. Ever since the first strategic arms talks in 1969, a changing cast of Washington officials has squabbled over an unchanging set of questions. What would be a desirable arms control deal? How and when should Washington try to bridge the gulf between those two?

all that to Moscow. The US delegation at Geneva will unfold what insiders are calling "the road map", laying out its new strategic concept and showing in detail how both sides should navigate through the phases Nitzze's formula prescribes.

In brief, the US will argue that in 1972 the Salt-I agreement embodied a bargain. Both superpowers committed themselves to strategic stability through limitation of offensive forces, and on that basis signed the anti-ballistic missile treaty forswearing defences. Now, say the Americans, the bargain has broken down, principally because of the increased number of Soviet warheads. So it is up to Moscow to suggest how the bargain might be revived, or to accept that the US is serious about restoring what it sees as its lost security by its own means. One early Soviet proposal will almost certainly be that both sides reaffirm the anti-ballistic missile treaty. The US will promptly agree - indeed will propose this if the Russians do not. But here too the US will say it is for the Russians to suggest how it might be done - since the Soviet construction and testing of the three tiers of radar needed by a land-based ABM system has all but undermined the treaty. The American price for some ringing reaffirmation, therefore, will be Soviet actions to dismantle those radars, plus rewording of the treaty to plug the loopholes the Russians have been exploiting.

In his private correspondence with President Reagan in Novem-

ber, President Chernomko apparently offered radical reductions in missile forces. More recently the Soviet ambassador in Washington has been saying that Moscow will offer the "deep cuts" that Carter sought in vain. But careful reading of Gromyko's post-Genova press conference suggests that those cuts may exclude the Soviet heavy missiles which most concern the US. Washington will not dismiss such an offer but will describe it as "cosmetic" and offer little or nothing in return. If Moscow wants a serious bargain, it will have to offer much more.

Behind this US negotiating strategy lies the confidence that America occupies the high ground. Already, the prospect of MX and Trident 2 is forcing the Russians to put their missiles on wheels or rails. Further off is the cost to the Russians of matching US spending on SDI. "People say it's wrong of us to try to spend the Soviets into arms control," one US official said. "Why? If our missiles can't force them into an agreement, perhaps our money can."

But the most fundamental questions are those whose answers are best concealed. What would Moscow have to offer to persuade the Americans to consider abandoning the Star Wars programme? And could Reagan ever be persuaded to abandon his dream?

As to the first, the calculation most commonly heard is that a 50 per cent cut in Soviet warheads - down to about 4,000 - would represent a real cut in first-strike potential. Even that might not be enough, however, since nobody on the US side can figure out how a corresponding ban on Soviet research activity could ever be monitored in a way acceptable to both Kremlin and Congress.

And would Reagan ever give up Star Wars? Nobody knows. But, it is being speculated, the real reason Shultz brought heavyweights Mike Nitzze, Senator John Tower and Max Kampers to about the heart of the US team is not to persuade Congress to back some future deal. Reagan has unmatched skills and authority for that. The real strength of Shultz's team may just be that it could persuade the president.

Max Beloff

Why Labour must abandon Utopia

The Labour Party's problems elicit different explanations from within its own ranks. There are those to whom the policies of the present government are, in the fashionable phrase, so "divisive" that its standing in the country can be seen only as the product of deception and the accidental workings of the electoral system. If Labour can only hold together, the good sense of the country will ensure a rallying of support leading to a triumphant majority representing a large national consensus.

Others take the opposite view, that the weakness Labour has generally shown in opposition is above all due to a willingness to dilute its ideals and thus compete on ground not of its own choosing. According to this view the delusions from which the electorate suffer must be left to work themselves out, even if it takes some time; the remnant of the socialist faithful must be prepared to retreat behind their ideological ramparts, to sustain their socialist vision in the certainty that they will ultimately triumph. However bitter the struggle, history is on their side and they cannot fail.

Yet what the former section of Labour opinion recognizes only fitfully and the latter not at all is that the truth of the matter lies elsewhere. Two distinct issues have been wittingly or unwittingly confused. In any industrial society in which there is freedom of political activity, it is almost certain that at least one major party will come to represent by and large the interests of organized labour: the association between industrial and political activity may take many different forms, whether in Western Europe, North America or Australasia. In Britain one must assume that the Labour Party will be there to celebrate its centenary in the year 2000. But this is not the same thing as saying that a party preaching socialism must continue to have such a place. By the time the next century arrives, socialism in the West may come to have a purely antiquarian interest; socialists will be as rare as Jacobites after the Forty-five rebellion.

While social utopianism may have had a part to play in winning over middle-class adherents - the same kind of people as those who went in for pacifism, vegetarianism, theosophy, feminism - Labour's appeal to the working class at its beginning was a material one. Socialism was advanced as a method of raising the general standard of living, spreading to the masses what had been the prerogatives of the few, and eliminating the age-old scourge of poverty. But that it would do all this had to be taken on trust. Actual experience except on a tiny scale was totally lacking.

By now, on the contrary, there is

plenty of experience, and the problem for western socialists has been to argue it away. Socialism in the Soviet Union will soon have been in place for 70 years. From the beginning its failure to deliver the goods - in the most literal sense - were explained away by the ravages of the war and civil war, by the backwardness of the people and the hostility of the international environment.

But then came the experience of the countries of Eastern Europe, which have now had almost 40 years of socialism. There, despite the fact that the system began with a much stronger economic substructure and a much more advanced population than what Russia enjoyed in 1917, the lesson has been the same. Nor can Soviet exploitation be blamed; Yugoslavia, which is outside Soviet control, has done no better.

Finally, there has been even more recent experience with the newly emancipated states of the Third World: there again, wherever prosperity has advanced, and living conditions improved, it has been result of the releasing of individual economic energies. Wherever socialism has been tried, productivity has fallen, often dangerously. This is especially true of Africa, where the Mengistu or a Mugabe or the "African" socialism of a Nyerere. It could be said of Africa that the cruelties of nature have been compounded by the follies of its rulers.

If Warsaw and Havana, Kiev and Maputo all tell the same story, why should one expect it to be ignored? Why socialism has failed can of course be explained on many different levels of sophistication. What is easiest to grasp is that its theorists have, from the beginning, ignored the importance of production as compared with ownership and distribution, as though the conditions making for the actual production of wealth, given the niggardliness of nature and the natural sloth of man, did not require all the energy and ingenuity of which societies are capable.

Socialists often taunt their critics with concentrating on balance sheets at the expense of humanity. Yet as experience fortifies the teachings of common sense, it is widely understood that there is no such opposition. On the ultimate balance-sheet what is not produced cannot be consumed; all socialism has done is to ensure that the lion's share of diminishing production goes to a state bureaucracy. Socialism should not be seen as the objective of the Labour movement but as the albatross around its neck.

Lord Beloff, Emeritus Fellow of All Souls, Oxford, is a former adviser to the Conservative Research Department.

moreover... Miles Kington

OK fellers, get in line

President Reagan announced yesterday that he planned to extend the technique of the short, sharp shock to more countries under his control.

This should not be confused with how we use the term in Britain, where the short, sharp shock is a technique for taking naive delinquents and turning them into fit, resilient criminals.

In America it means throwing your weight and a lot of dollars behind the strong, authoritarian head of a country, preferably of military rank and preferably not elected. The friendly head then gives a short, sharp shock to his own country, as often as possible.

"We prefer these friendly heads not to be elected," said Reagan, "because it seems a shame to put so much covert, that is completely open, support behind a man who could be voted out of office. Our system of democracy is all right for America but I don't see it working elsewhere. In Britain, I don't see it working."

This technique has often been criticized in the past, on the basis that American support tends to make the friendly dictator big-headed, which gives his own subjects a bigger subject to aim at. The Americans backed the Shah, who was thrown out. They backed Sadat and he was assassinated. "That's all in the past," says Reagan. "We've improved our technique now. We backed General Zia and Mrs Gandhi got shot. We backed President Marcos - and the head of the opposition got shot. In case that sounds a bit hard-hearted," continued the president with the familiar wrinkle, "don't forget that we backed Mr Trudeau in Canada - and I got shot."

And yet there are strong men round the world whom the Americans refuse to back. Is he thinking of offering support to the Ayatollah Khomeini? "What, and get the Pope shot again?" twinkled Reagan. "No," seriously, the Iranian leader refuses support from anyone, so we naturally are backing his opponents in the war and giving as much help as we can to the Iraqis."

The Iraqis? "Well, whoever lives in Iraq." What does the president think of the alternative technique of sending troops in to subvert and bring down an undesirable government? "There is no way the Russian action in Afghanistan can be justified."

No, no - we were thinking of Nicaragua. "Well, now, Nicaragua is a completely different pot of beans. It is a completely independent country in Central America and as such, we have the right to say what

government it should adopt. As, however, they show no signs of listening to us, I intend to apply the short, sharp shock treatment to the Sandinistas."

Send them all to the electric chair? "Wrong again. I intend to throw my full support behind President Ortega and give him as much aid and money as he wants."

What would be the aim of this sensational reversal of policy? "Well, either it would make him so unpopular and distrusted by his own people that they would throw him out."

Or? "Or it won't. Either way, we have him where we want him. A deeply worried man. And now, if you'll excuse me, I have to give this whole press conference again in Spanish. Thank you, my fellow Americans and illegal immigrants..."

As the president spoke, Congress issued a routine repudiation of what the president had said, and promised to study his words later.

Stop press. Recruiting has started for a new band of freedom fighters who will be trained in America and sent to New Zealand to help liberate the country, or at least to destabilize the government. The so-called democratically elected government of New Zealand has recently taken an anti-nuclear stance, that is to say anti-American, and the American government simply cannot countenance having a pro-Cuban, pro-Soviet presence in that part of the world. Not that there is anything else in that part of the world. Which makes it all the more vital. Or something.

Up to \$80m worth of covert funds is being made available for this mission. Recruiting is being kept low key at the moment and in fact this announcement is the only one to have been made in the European press so far. As *Moreover* readers have a very aggressive, freedom-loving hawkish profile and are generally pretty short of ready funds, most of them would dearly love a life of adventure but are forced through no fault of their own to work as housewives, bishops, intellectuals and in other menial professions. This could be their big chance.

Applicants should be able to talk combat with sheep, like trees and participate in long grueling conversations about rugby. They must undertake not to sue Time, CBS, *Private Eye* etc, and thus draw attention to their activities. Write in complete secret. Covert Operations (NZ), White House, Washington DC, enclosing a reply coupon (dollars, not sterling).

Good luck.



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TAXING THE NEST-EGG

Taxing what has not been taxed is rarely popular. That, however, should not deter the Chancellor of the Exchequer from making a start in his Budget on March 19 in reducing the extraordinary tax privileges enjoyed by Britain's private pension schemes.

The rapid growth of pension funds in recent years, allied to the relief they enjoy, has opened up a hole in the revenue from income tax estimated at almost £5 billion in the current financial year. "Lost" revenue has to be replaced: by charging tax at higher rates and at lower levels of income than would otherwise be necessary - at the expense of work incentives.

Nigel Lawson has rightly adopted as a principle for reform that taxes should be levied at the lowest possible rate on the broadest practical base to lessen their disincentive effect. That in itself would be a good enough reason to reform pension tax relief in a year when Mr Lawson's Budget priority is to restructure tax and social security to stimulate employment.

A regime of high taxes with wide exemptions also distorts people's behaviour. Tax-induced distortions have been particularly glaring in the savings market, often favouring institutional over individual forms of saving. And after earlier moves towards fiscal neutrality, such as the abolition of life assurance premium relief, the status of pension funds looks even more illogical.

Private pension provisions, in particular large scale occupational pensions, are making a great and increasing contribution to transforming the living standards that millions of people can look forward to in retirement. They also lessen the burdens of poverty relief that fall on the state and on present taxpayers. Without such favourable tax treatment, they would not have grown so fast.

But the pension scheme is not such a perfect form of saving that it calls for unique encouragement on the grand scale. In particular, it reduces people's flexibility and control of their own savings and, aside from the restricted lump sum that may be

commuted from pensions on retirement, directs savings into a form that cannot be inherited, thus hindering the natural spread of wealth.

Reform will not be easy. As the intensive pensions lobby has pointed out over the past few months, a comprehensive attempt to achieve fiscal neutrality between pension funds and other savings would kill the goose and leave a less than golden egg. The cost to employers, who pay most of the contributions, would be increased so much that many would wind up their schemes altogether.

Even tinkering needs greater care and sensitivity than the Chancellor displayed in his treatment of life assurance tax relief last year. An individual's pension contract can last 60 years and the funds themselves are continuing common pools, requiring, for equity, equal tax treatment of all members.

Under the present regime, pensions when they are paid are taxed. There is no tax up to that point. Individuals' contributions are fully tax deductible. Employers' contributions are deductible for corporation tax but not treated as income of the employee.

The pension funds themselves are exempt from tax on their investment returns and - an anomaly even under the present regime - lump sums commuted on retirement are free of tax. The tax on pensions, though rising as a proportion of the relief on contributions, will never match the £6.8 billion gross cost of all these privileges.

Those in the pensions industry most anxious to maintain the present regime have, in effect, offered taxation of lump sums as a sacrificial lamb to appease the Treasury. That would do no harm to pension funds and might indeed improve their cash flow. As Mr Lawson has already discovered, however, it would upset the long-laid plans of many individuals.

The rush of managers queuing for early retirement to beat the threat has forced him to rule out any sudden change and with that, any substantial revenue from that particular source for many years. Indeed, given their

wealth-spreading virtues and their likely crucial role in developing personal portable pensions, for which their tax attractions are a vital selling point, he might well decide it is better to spare the lump sums from taxation altogether.

There is more logic in taxing the investment returns within pension funds. On the face of it that could harm employment by increasing employers' costs. On one calculation, a full 30 per cent tax could more than double the pension contributions required from employers to maintain present pension terms. In practice, recent high investment returns have left the average fund with a comfortable surplus. This could be used to raise benefits or cut costs.

But there is a strong case for using this opportunity to introduce a modest level of taxation. A 7½ per cent tax, yielding more than £600 million a year, could probably be met without generally higher contributions.

Any serious attempt to remove tax distortion of the pattern of savings must, however, start with the relief on contributions, which make pensions more attractive, at the moment the individual makes his decisions, than almost any other form of saving. It would be impractical to switch from taxing pensions to taxing contributions or to tax all contributions fully in the hands of an employee.

If, however, the employee were taxed on, say, a quarter of his own and his employer's contributions, that would achieve a rough measure of tax neutrality for the individual and avoid any substantive accusations of double taxation. There is also some case for restricting relief for higher-rate taxpayers.

Such changes should be approached with caution. They must be tied in with any plans for reforming the state pension scheme, which Mr Fowler has now decided is here to stay. There will be arguments over the apportionment of employers' contributions. But if the Chancellor sensibly confines himself to a tax on pension fund income this year, he should not let himself be deflected from carrying reform further next time.

CRAXI GOES TO CONGRESS

This week it was the Prime Minister of Italy's turn to address a joint session of both Houses of Congress. Such formal addresses by visiting foreign leaders, formerly very rare, have become a more regular occurrence in the last year or two.

Signor Bettino Craxi, though he spoke as Chairman of the European Council as well as on behalf of his country, did not attract as much attention in the US as Mrs Thatcher had done. A House subcommittee hearing on aid to Israel was able to continue undisturbed while he was speaking, with the defection of only one member who happened to have an Italian surname. This was partly, no doubt, because Signor Craxi spoke in his native tongue. But there is more to it than that. As the first woman Prime Minister of Britain, and as the victor of the Falklands war, Mrs Thatcher has a capacity to arouse interest and curiosity in the US which few foreign leaders can equal.

Signor Craxi cannot quite compete with these advantages. Yet he is by no means a negligible figure. He is, perhaps, a less amiable man than Italian prime ministers have traditionally been. But the other side of that coin is that he is more

forthright. One knows where he stands, and on the issues which matter most to the US administration - East-West relations, defence, and specifically the deployment of cruise missiles - he stands in the right place. Like his fellow-socialist President Mitterrand he has favourably surprised Americans by being firmer on such issues than his non-socialist predecessors - and whereas President Mitterrand initially inspired American distrust by bringing communists into government with him, Signor Craxi rose to power by curing his party of its inferiority complex about the communists.

Thanks in part to him, Italy is taken more seriously these days on the international scene. He was able to remind his American audience that Italian and American soldiers had served together in Beirut and are still doing so in Sinai, while their navies cooperated in last year's minesweeping exercise in the Red Sea. He was also able to claim victory in the hard fought battle against terrorism, not mentioning that in 1978 his party favoured concessions to the kidnappers of Aldo Moro while the communists were for standing firm. No matter. It is true that in the last few years the Italian State has reasserted itself

and that terrorism, while not extinguished, is no longer the omnipresent social menace that it was.

Signor Craxi is one of a group of western leaders who, accepting Mr Reagan's leadership even when they have reservations about some of his specific policies, have given a new coherence to the Atlantic Alliance. Italian reservations were certainly implicit in his insistence on the right of the Chilean people to free elections and his warning that we should not tolerate those dictators who at times speak in the name of the western world although they have nothing in common, and cannot have anything in common with Western free democracies. On the strategic defence initiative, in giving strong support to the research programme while insisting on the importance of the ABM treaty and on the need for negotiations before deployment, he voiced what is now emerging as a clear European consensus. He spoke for Europe, too, in welcoming next week's resumption of arms control negotiations, while implicitly recognizing that the only hope of success lies in the maintenance of western unity and strength.

THE PRESIDENT GENERAL

Last weekend General Zia announced the terms of the new order he has decided to ordain in Pakistan. Though intended as a return to democracy, it is a thinly disguised continuation of dictatorship. The real essence of what will happen on March 23 when the new constitution is enforced, is the replacement of Zia the military ruler by Zia the newly civilian autocrat. He may be shedding his army uniform but he is keeping his absolute power.

On the surface, there have been elections, there will be a national assembly and there will be a civilian Prime Minister. That is the democratic facade. However, long before they were held, the elections were vitiated by the ban on political parties, the opposition leaders, and the prohibition of public meetings. Now, the national assembly and prime minister have been debilitated by the constitution.

At the centre is an omnipotent president - Zia himself, who in December sneaked past the electorate behind the guise of a referendum on his policy of Islamisation. The constitution has now revealed the full extent

of his power. He will appoint the prime minister, the Cabinet, the four provincial governors and the corresponding chief ministers. He can dissolve the Assembly whenever he wants. He can order a referendum on any issue he chooses. As supreme commander of the armed forces he will personally select the three service heads. Furthermore, as if there was any need for it, he has also dealt himself what amounts to a veto on legislation.

Finally, the constitution has no provision for impeaching the new president. Although he denies it, few other civilian executive heads of state are so powerful in their own right as President Zia will be.

In defence of his new order, the General has claimed that the powers of the President will be no different to those of the American or French executives. That is simply not true. They are directly elected. He is not.

He became president first and then created a constitution around his own chosen definition of his role. He has admitted that he may yet further refine his system by announcing additions to his own constitution.

For most Pakistanis the details of the new constitution are not needed to see through the General's game. They point to the fact that martial law will continue long after the new system is inaugurated later this month. Zia has said he is only maintaining it to ensure a stable transition and that thereafter it will be repealed in stages. The problem is that Zia himself will determine whether the requisite stability has been achieved, and so far he has patently refused to say what the stages of its repeal will be.

Whilst martial law lasts, no matter what Zia or his apologists may claim, the army is not far behind. What is happening in Pakistan is not so much democratisation so much as a legitimisation of one man's rule. The elections provided cover whilst the General changed clothes. The new constitution simply seeks to give a statutory authority to what were, and remain, arbitrary powers. Under the pretext of transferring or sharing power, Zia ul Huq has kept it securely for himself. The only difference is: for General Zia henceforth read President Zia.

Christian record in Namibia

From the Bishop of Stepney and Mr Terry Waite

Sir, We write as Christians who know, love and admire the Anglican Church in Namibia and its Bishop, James Kauluma.

Mr Nicholas Winter and others visited Namibia as guests of the South African Administrator General. They have produced a report which has been widely circulated and which we believe to be misleading. We quote:

1. We were impressed by the degree to which apartheid is not visibly evident. It is difficult to imagine how any visitor could come to this conclusion. The group visited black townships; they must presumably know about the whites' hospital in Windhoek, the overall effects of education provision and the distinction made between whites and blacks - e.g. at road blocks. The report rightly calls for AG8 to be reformed because ethnicity is no longer a fundamental factor, but at the same time seeks to undermine UN resolution 435, which provides the international basis for independence.

2. The MPs' report continues: Our overall impression of the Anglican Church in Namibia was that it was unfairly biased in its viewpoint, particularly when compared with the Roman Catholic Church. But our own Anglican delegation in fact visited many Church leaders and members of all denominations in the Council of Churches and concluded that the unity and determination of the Christian Church is remarkable and an example to Christendom. The churches have enough burdens to carry without attempts by visitors to create divisions where they do not exist. Bishop James is the President of the Council of Churches and carries the confidence of all its members, including the Roman Catholic Church.

3. The MPs' report also says: Some of us were impressed by the Anglican Church in Namibia's apparent open commitment to SWAPO, and that they have little confidence in members of the other internal parties. We feel this simply shows that the Anglican Church is truly representative of the people of Namibia, the vast majority of whom support SWAPO. The South African Government obviously is aware of this and fears elections for that reason. The Anglican Church, like the other churches, is opposed to violence, but it is important to remember that the illegal South African regime is the aggressor.

Yours faithfully, JAMES ROBERTS-WRAY, 124 Gloucester Terrace, W2, March 1.

From Mr David Nathan
Sir, Of course the BBC needs more money. Needing to do some research for a book, I asked to see four one-hour programmes made in 1976. I was told that as a technician had to be present throughout, the viewing charge would be £50 an hour.

My future royalties being unlikely to bring in £200 in the course of one afternoon, I had to decline.

But clearly, if it costs the BBC some £400 a day to provide this service which, they assured me, was non-profit-making, a £65 licence fee is barely adequate.

Yours faithfully, DAVID NATHAN, 16 Augustus Close, Brentford Dock, Brentford, Middlesex.

From Mr S. J. Gross
Sir, It is no doubt bad for one's health, but I do get so cross when I read statements like "The simple fact, acknowledged by anyone who has made a serious comparison", is that the British system "produces the best television in the world", (David Watt, February 22).

What makes it a fact, simple or otherwise? I suspect David Watt principally was in mind American television, dominated by advertising, and French television, controlled by the State. But has he really studied the comparative merits of

the "thouger" trend
From the Chairman of the Howard League
Sir, The Home Secretary's decision to extend the "thouger" regime to all detention centres as from March 6 (report, February 14) is to be deplored on two counts. Firstly, it rejects the principle that the custodial sentence is intended as a punishment and not for punishment. Significantly, in 1970 by the Advisory Council on the Penal System much progress had been made by the Prison Department to eliminate deliberately punitive aspects of detention centres.

This trend is now to be reversed. In particular, the first two weeks of the new regime (the minimum sentence after remission) will, in Leon Brittan's words, "highlight basic and unpopular work such as scrubbing floors, increased emphasis on parade and inspection, and minimal privileges and association". The only explicitly punitive institutions within the prison system are exclusively to be for its younger inmates (900 14-year-olds passed through detention centres in 1983).

Secondly, Mr Brittan's decision rejects research findings provided by his own department. Honouring a manifesto commitment, Lord Whitelaw announced in October, 1979, that two experimental "thouger" regime detention centres would be evaluated. A careful and expensive study was published in July, 1984.

However, Mr Brittan had announced, prior to receiving the report (on April 11, 1984, to Wessex magistrates) that "there will be some features of the tougher regime which we shall want to maintain or adapt for use in detention centres generally".

The research demonstrated that the tougher regimes had no discernible individual or general deterrent effect. Nothing in the research indicated that the tougher regime would reduce the 70 per cent reconviction rate (over 24 months) of detention centres. It is probable that Lord Whitelaw would have used the research findings to disarm the shrill punitive elements within his party.

For Mr Brittan and his political advisers, image appears to take precedence and this bodes ill for rational policy on criminal justice. Yours faithfully, ANDREW RUTHERFORD, Chairman, The Howard League, 322 Kennington Park Road, SE11.

Tongue-tripping
From Mr Nelson Ford
Sir, Today in court a defendant stated that he and his wife were now recognised.

My favourite still is the defendant who claimed that he was only in receipt of infidelity benefit. Yours faithfully, NELSON FORD, Clerk to the Justices, County of Stafford, Petty Sessions Division of Newcastle-under-Lyme, Court House, Rycroft, Newcastle, Staffordshire, February 26.

Budget relief for lower paid

From Mr Tim Yeo, MP for Suffolk South, and others

Sir, There is widespread agreement within the Conservative Party that the forthcoming Budget must give priority to reducing the burden of taxation on the lower paid and improving the incentives for unemployed people to seek work.

The Third Term Group of backbenchers, which is concerned with the development of policies up to and beyond the next election, entirely shares these aims. However, we do not believe that raising income tax thresholds is the most effective way of achieving them.

Whatever sum the Chancellor decides to "give away" on Budget Day, low earners would enjoy a much larger increase in take-home pay if the relief was granted by raising the lower earnings limit for employees' National Insurance contributions, currently 9 per cent of all wages between £34 and £250 per week and payable by many employees whose wages are too low to be taxable.

If £1.5 billion were available, for example, employees earning up to £100 per week could be entirely relieved of National Insurance contributions and those earning up to £120 per week could enjoy partial relief.

This change would be worth £9 per week to a married man earning £100 per week, compared with a gain of only £1.80 if the £1.5 billion was devoted to raising tax thresholds.

Broadcasting's future
From Mr James Roberts-Wray

Sir, Regarding the discussion on introducing limited advertising to the BBC, surely the obvious programmes to contain commercials are those bought by the BBC. Among these, American imports are, of course, designed to have advertising breaks, and long films could certainly benefit from them.

In this way a reduced licence fee would go solely to support the BBC's own product, which, itself uninterupted by commercials, would ensure its continued quality.

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Yours faithfully, DAVID NATHAN, 16 Augustus Close, Brentford Dock, Brentford, Middlesex.

From Mr R. J. Monk
Sir, Thanks be to God. The "thouger" has at last thundered. Your first editorial (February 25) rightly identifies the one single issue of crucial national importance arising from the Ponting case: Mr Justice McCowan's direction that the policies of the State were the policies of the Government then in power.

If we accept - as we must - the constitutional validity of your statement that "the sovereign state of Britain is the Crown in Parliament" it follows that the imbalance of power between the executive and Parliament can only be corrected by a drastic revision of the present whip system.

If the role and integrity of Parliament is to be preserved, one - and only one - simple whip can be justified. It would mean: "This is an important vote. Your duty is to attend. You should vote according to conscience and the arguments. Failure to attend will be regarded as a lapse of parliamentary duty".

It follows that defeat on such a vote would not necessarily mean the fall of the Government; but Parliament would have spoken. All-party agreement would be desirable, but there is room for the pragmatic centrists (the Alliance?) to lead for parliamentary democracy.

Yours faithfully, R. J. MONK, Tangieres, Canislon Lane, Ashurst Wood, East Grinstead, West Sussex, February 25.

Back to the pits
From Mr Robert Adley, MP for Christchurch (Conservative)

Sir, Perhaps those demanding an amnesty in the pits could start by terminating the grotesque campaign of victimisation against men who, deprived of a ballot, committed the "crime" of going to work.

Yours etc, ROBERT ADLEY, House of Commons, March 6.

From Mr Norman St John-Stevens, MP for Chelmsford (Conservative)
Sir, I can only express my astonishment at the item in your columns of March 6 that "Researchers cause chaos in the Commons." I do not know who the House of Commons select committee had in mind in their report, but their experience is directly contrary to mine.

A married man earning £63 per week gains nothing from higher tax thresholds but would be £5.67 per week better off if he did not pay National Insurance contributions.

Our proposal would improve incentives because take-home pay from lower paid jobs, which offer the best hope of employment for many of the unemployed, especially young people, would be substantially increased.

We recognise that those earning over £120 per week would not benefit directly from our proposal, though they would still gain from the automatic indexation of personal tax allowances. However, it is our view that this year most people in work earning reasonable sums are ready to make this sacrifice.

We also recognise that a radical reform of the whole National Insurance system, including the contributory principle, would be needed to prevent those employees who would no longer pay contributions from losing entitlement to benefit.

Yours faithfully, TIM YEO, ANDREW J. MACKAY, DAVID HARRIS, W. BENYON, SYDNEY CHAPMAN, VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY, JOHN HANNAM, BOWEN WELLS, STEVE MORRIS, House of Commons, March 4.

say, Swedish, Danish, German, Swiss or Italian television, let alone that of Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore or wherever?

And who does he mean by "anyone"? Is it someone who (like myself, I have to admit) shares his subjective prejudices about his own familiar television? Or is it simply that no comparison can possibly be "serious" unless it yields the required answer?

I simply do not believe that every "serious" analysis of television in countries other than Britain really comes up with the answer that "British is best".

So I file this statement away with similar ones like "We produce the cheapest deep-mined coal..." "Our car workers are the most skilled..." "Our National Health Service provides the best service..." "Our footballers are..." but it would be unkind to continue.

Yours faithfully, S. J. GROSS, 38 Barnes Court, Station Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire.

From Mr Peter Angelides
Sir, Michael Grade's action in axeing or shelving *Doctor Who* (report, February 28) is deplorable, particularly as a publicity stunt for the BBC's claim for a £65 licence fee. *Doctor Who* is a commercially successful series, selling to over 50 countries worldwide, and is a potential source of co-production money and finance from related merchandise from a host of different outlets. BBC Enterprises owe much of their setting up to the success of *Doctor Who* sales and franchises.

The programme is innovative in terms of scripting, direction and organization, a testing ground for many production techniques and a carefully budgeted drama series.

I feel this petty action weakens the BBC's case: if they can tamper with their own institutions in such an offhand way, can they really complain about threats to the institution of the BBC itself, for example by broadcast advertising?

Yours faithfully, PETER ANGELIDES, 25 Woodville Drive, Sale, Cheshire.

Interests of the State
From Mr R. J. Monk

Sir, Thanks be to God. The "thouger" has at last thundered. Your first editorial (February 25) rightly identifies the one single issue of crucial national importance arising from the Ponting case: Mr Justice McCowan's direction that the policies of the State were the policies of the Government then in power.

If we accept - as we must - the constitutional validity of your statement that "the sovereign state of Britain is the Crown in Parliament" it follows that the imbalance of power between the executive and Parliament can only be corrected by a drastic revision of the present whip system.

If the role and integrity of Parliament is to be preserved, one - and only one - simple whip can be justified. It would mean: "This is an important vote. Your duty is to attend. You should vote according to conscience and the arguments. Failure to attend will be regarded as a lapse of parliamentary duty".

It follows that defeat on such a vote would not necessarily mean the fall of the Government; but Parliament would have spoken. All-party agreement would be desirable, but there is room for the pragmatic centrists (the Alliance?) to lead for parliamentary democracy.

Yours faithfully, R. J. MONK, Tangieres, Canislon Lane, Ashurst Wood, East Grinstead, West Sussex, February 25.

After the master
From Miss Lucy Halford

Sir, Your leading article (February 28): why should Miss van der Rohe be blamed for either his philosophy or his architecture?

Post-war housing estates were lamentable and cannot even be called imitations of a master architect whose work in Germany and the United States stands today as proof of his talent.

Advanced ideas (1930) and mass man (1985) have little in common; Nash was faulted in his day. Yours faithfully, LUCY HALFORD, The Porter's Lodge, Hales Hall, Loddon, Norfolk, February 28.

Help in the Commons
From Mr Norman St John-Stevens, MP for Chelmsford (Conservative)

Sir, I can only express my astonishment at the item in your columns of March 6 that "Researchers cause chaos in the Commons." I do not know who the House of Commons select committee had in mind in their report, but their experience is directly contrary to mine.



ON THIS DAY

MARCH 8, 1837
The civil war in Spain broke out in July 1836. Ovidio was a town with republican traditions. The commander of the garrison there, Colonel Aranda, declared himself for the rebels. The province, however, opposed him and early in the war the miners began to besiege the town.

ASSAULT ON OVIEDO

From Our Own Correspondent
MADRID, MARCH 7

The fighting in and around Oviedo continues furiously. It has now lasted a fortnight, during which severe weather has greatly added to the hardships suffered by the troops engaged and hampered support from the air.

The miners are determined on taking Oviedo, whatever the cost. Two columns are blasting their way towards the centre of the town from different directions, and the latest circumstantial report says that now only 300 yards separate them. It seems certain that the insurgent command has had to divert for the defence of Oviedo contingents destined for other fronts.

MADRID'S BREAD
RATIONED

It is four months to-day since the Government abolished Madrid and the Junta de Defensa assumed responsibility for the capital. The trust has been discharged faithfully and although the enemy has extended his line he is no nearer the Puerta del Sol, where General Franco was to have taken coffee months ago. One of the jokes of the siege is a table laid and a seat awaiting him in a cafe there. The resistance Madrid is offering has surprised even the Madrilenos, who continue nevertheless to endure every privation rather than give up hope and leave their homes. Bread, one of the few plentiful foodstuffs hitherto, is now to be rationed.

Raids and trench warfare continue in the University City. During the night a heavy cannon shot from the insurgents had built between the Bridge of the French and San Fernando Bridge. The Jarama front is quiet.

Anatomy of SDP

From Mr Roger Fox

Sir, As someone who is intimately involved in local SDP politics perhaps I could comment on George Brock's excellent descriptions (February 25-27) of the present state of affairs in the SDP/Liberal Alliance.

My own observation is that Dr David Owen's style of leadership has opened up the SDP far more than it ever was when it was run by the Gang of Four. This is primarily because Roy Jenkins's style of leadership and, more to the point, the attitudes of his closest followers towards outsiders was and still is extremely exclusive. George Brock describes the pro-Liberal inclinations of this grouping within the SDP with unerring accuracy.

That the SDP has a major group within it favouring eventual SDP/Liberal merger and displaying such a high degree of animosity to the leader of the party may be considered strange by outsiders. However, the pro-Liberal group has historical roots and anyone who reads Susan Crossland's excellent biography of her late husband will observe that these behavioural traits developed over a period of twenty years. That they continue to be sustained in the SDP is quite incredible.

There is an additional point often missed by commentators. When the SDP was established it attracted a majority of members who had not been active in politics before. These new members often join the SDP rather than take the opportunity to align themselves with the Liberal Party. In general terms they see the Liberal Party as not addressing the central questions facing Britain today and lacking any organisational coherence. Indeed in some areas the Liberal organisation borders on anarchy.

Consequently many SDP members would be unhappy with any SDP/Liberal merger which would really be a submergence of the SDP into the Liberal Party and in such circumstances many SDP members would refuse to join the merged party. This remains the strongest argument against any merger and for a continuing separate identity for the SDP.

Yours sincerely, ROGER FOX, 53 The Avenue, Chiswick, W4, February 26.

I have now over the years had approaching 10 of these young American men and women from Educational Programmes Abroad working for me. Without exception they have given me splendid and dedicated service. They are mature, hardworking, respectful of House of Commons traditions and totally dedicated to their task. One student even gave up a month of his holiday to help me further.

I, for one, am most grateful to these excellent young people and the Commons is greatly in their debt. Yours faithfully, NORMAN ST JOHN-STEVES, House of Commons.

Age concern
From Mr John Ruffe

Sir, The smart lads who produce antiques for the tourist market in Egypt give their freshly-made products an air of antiquity by burying them in the chicken run for a while. Mr Barker (February 27) might like to try this method on his bust of Aesculapius. It certainly produces a distinctive patina.

Yours sincerely, JOHN RUFFE, Keeper, The Oriental Museum, Elvet Hill, Durham, February 28.

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	Company	Price	Chg	Ytd %	P/E
1	DRAPERY AND STORES							
2	Burton	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
3	Goldberg (A)	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
4	Debenhams	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
5	Procter (and)	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
6	Smith (W) A	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
7	Br Home Stores	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
8	Bentalls	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
9	Freemantle	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
10	Mullens Leisure	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
11	Ford (Marine)	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
12	INDUSTRIALS A-D							
13	Bentley (SW)	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
14	Bullfinch	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
15	Black Arrow	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
16	Cape Allman	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
17	Boysack	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
18	Cape Ind	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
19	Br Syphon	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
20	Crest Nicholson	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
21	Booker McConnell	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
22	Bentham	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
23	INDUSTRIALS L-R							
24	London Ind	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
25	Lamont	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
26	Marshall Univ	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
27	Martins	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
28	Marginal	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
29	Lifecare	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
30	Metal Box	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
31	Linwood	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
32	Moring	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
33	ELECTRICALS							
34	Rural Elect	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
35	Dobbler	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
36	STC	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
37	Nevein	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
38	Chloride	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
39	Wholesale Fitting	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
40	First Castle Elec	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
41	Oxford Instruments	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
42	Thorp (FW)	100	95	100	100	0	0	10

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £1,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOT

High 85 Low 80 Price Chg Ytd % P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

No.	Company	1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	Company	Price	Chg	Ytd %	P/E
1	DRAPERY AND STORES							
2	Burton	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
3	Goldberg (A)	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
4	Debenhams	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
5	Procter (and)	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
6	Smith (W) A	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
7	Br Home Stores	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
8	Bentalls	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
9	Freemantle	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
10	Mullens Leisure	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
11	Ford (Marine)	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
12	INDUSTRIALS A-D							
13	Bentley (SW)	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
14	Bullfinch	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
15	Black Arrow	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
16	Cape Allman	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
17	Boysack	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
18	Cape Ind	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
19	Br Syphon	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
20	Crest Nicholson	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
21	Booker McConnell	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
22	Bentham	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
23	INDUSTRIALS L-R							
24	London Ind	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
25	Lamont	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
26	Marshall Univ	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
27	Martins	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
28	Marginal	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
29	Lifecare	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
30	Metal Box	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
31	Linwood	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
32	Moring	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
33	ELECTRICALS							
34	Rural Elect	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
35	Dobbler	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
36	STC	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
37	Nevein	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
38	Chloride	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
39	Wholesale Fitting	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
40	First Castle Elec	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
41	Oxford Instruments	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
42	Thorp (FW)	100	95	100	100	0	0	10

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

No.	Company	1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	Company	Price	Chg	Ytd %	P/E
1	DRAPERY AND STORES							
2	Burton	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
3	Goldberg (A)	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
4	Debenhams	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
5	Procter (and)	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
6	Smith (W) A	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
7	Br Home Stores	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
8	Bentalls	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
9	Freemantle	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
10	Mullens Leisure	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
11	Ford (Marine)	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
12	INDUSTRIALS A-D							
13	Bentley (SW)	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
14	Bullfinch	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
15	Black Arrow	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
16	Cape Allman	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
17	Boysack	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
18	Cape Ind	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
19	Br Syphon	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
20	Crest Nicholson	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
21	Booker McConnell	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
22	Bentham	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
23	INDUSTRIALS L-R							
24	London Ind	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
25	Lamont	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
26	Marshall Univ	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
27	Martins	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
28	Marginal	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
29	Lifecare	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
30	Metal Box	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
31	Linwood	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
32	Moring	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
33	ELECTRICALS							
34	Rural Elect	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
35	Dobbler	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
36	STC	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
37	Nevein	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
38	Chloride	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
39	Wholesale Fitting	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
40	First Castle Elec	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
41	Oxford Instruments	100	95	100	100	0	0	10
42	Thorp (FW)	100	95	100	100	0	0	10

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

No.		Company		1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	Company	Price	Chg	Ytd %	P/E
UNLISTED										
1	2	DRAPERY AND STORES								
3	4	Burton	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
5	6	Goldberg (A)	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
7	8	Debenhams	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
9	10	Procter (and)	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
11	12	Smith (W) A	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
13	14	Br Home Stores	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
15	16	Bentalls	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
17	18	Freemantle	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
19	20	Mullens Leisure	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
21	22	Ford (Marine)	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
INDUSTRIALS A-D										
23	24	Bentley (SW)	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
25	26	Bullfinch	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
27	28	Black Arrow	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
29	30	Cape Allman	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
31	32	Boysack	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
33	34	Cape Ind	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
35	36	Br Syphon	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
37	38	Crest Nicholson	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
39	40	Booker McConnell	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
41	42	Bentham	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
INDUSTRIALS L-R										
43	44	London Ind	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
45	46	Lamont	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
47	48	Marshall Univ	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
49	50	Martins	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
51	52	Marginal	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
53	54	Lifecare	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
55	56	Metal Box	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
57	58	Linwood	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
59	60	Moring	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
ELECTRICALS										
61	62	Rural Elect	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
63	64	Dobbler	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
65	66	STC	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
67	68	Nevein	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
69	70	Chloride	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
71	72	STC	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
73	74	Nevein	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
75	76	Chloride	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
77	78	STC	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
79	80	Nevein	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
81	82	Chloride	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
83	84	STC	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
85	86	Nevein	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
87	88	Chloride	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
89	90	STC	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
91	92	Nevein	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
93	94	Chloride	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
95	96	STC	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
97	98	Nevein	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10
99	100	Chloride	100	95	100	100	0	0	0	10

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Hongkong & Shanghai Bank may bid for discount house

By Pam Spooner

Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Corporation may be about to make a takeover bid for Gerard & National, one of the City's leading discount houses.

Gerard shares stood at 329p yesterday, as dealers took up positions in the wake of the recent bid by Citicorp of the US for Seacombe Marshall & Campion. That was the first occasion on which the Bank of England had allowed foreign companies to make a move for a discount house.

That could be just the precedent Hongkong & Shanghai needs. It already has a 29.9 per cent stake in James Capel, the London stockbroker, while Capel in turn has set up a joint venture with Gerard to form a market-making operation in the reshaped gilt market due to come into force next year.

There is a strong case for Hongkong & Shanghai to mop up the pair.

A few weeks ago the very idea would have looked far-fetched. But there seems very little to stop such a tie-up after the Seacombe bid.

At the time of the half-year figures last August, Hongkong & Shanghai revealed that it was still looking for a European banking acquisition, and many market men expect the group to return to the Royal Bank fray.

But the Hong Kong company could easily fit Gerard into its acquisition list. Gerard is valued at just over £100 million, while Hongkong & Shanghai shares are trading close to a peak level at 1051p, giving the group a market value of roughly £3,000 million. The bank's shares have strengthened considerably in recent months.

F H Tomkins' shares are enjoying another run, rising 20p, at one stage in the last 48 hours. Mr Gregg Hutchings, managing director and one of the men credited with the ability to turn the group into a stock market star, will not comment on speculation of a substantial deal at hand. Yesterday, Tomkins' shares touched 184p before profit-taking cut the price back to 179p.

While the group in the City ponder the possibilities for Gerard and Hongkong & Shanghai, there is plenty more action in the financial sector.

Exco International shares moved ahead yesterday, as the market prepared for the full year figures this month. The shares were up 20p at 678p.

Profit forecasts for the money broking and information group have risen steadily in recent months. In January stock-broking firms such as Laing & Cruickshank and Grievson Grant were predicting profits of £75 million and £71 million, against 1983 figures of £32.5 million.

Now forecasts are for £80 million and above, with brokers looking forward to profits of £108 million in the current year. Increased volumes in money broking markets and improvements at Telerate, the US information services company in which Exco has a 32 per cent

stake, both contribute to the growing optimism.

"Buy" is the message at many brokers, and Laing & Cruickshank says: "We are still bullish about Exco at this price level". There is still plenty of mileage in Telerate, the analysts suggest, especially since American brokers continue to enthuse about Telerate shares.

Share prices among the clearing banks looked less healthy after the week's rush of profits and rights issue news, although that news has been better than many expected.

National Westminster shares dipped 18p to 624p - the bank reported profits of £641 million on Tuesday. Midland Bank slipped 3p to 344p; Midland appears to be controlling the earnings loss at Crocker. Barclays shares showed a small

improvement alongside yesterday's profits and cash call announcement. Elsewhere in the markets, trading slackened while the latest bout of corporate earnings news was absorbed. The figures from British Petroleum, while below some of the more hopeful estimates, kept the market happy and the shares gained 3p to 551p.

Also in the top 30 list, BTR let the effect of profit-taking dipping 7p to 657p after recent results and British Telecom saw action ahead of its expected profits news.

The BT share price pushed through 130p at one stage before settling for a 1p gain to 128 1/2p. Blue Circle lost ground, falling 8p to 513p, despite recommendations from leading brokers to buy the shares. The recent increase in cement prices is expected to give a long awaited boost to margins.

By the end of the day the 30-share index showed a 2.8 point fall to 987.6, and the FT-SE 100 share measure edged 0.4 of a point higher to 128.5, having shrugged off early losses. National Westminster and Blue Circle provided most of the downward impetus in the shorter list.

Market enthusiasm for insurance brokers is rising as the dividend season gets under way, in the next trading Account. Both Sedgwick Group and Willis Faber report full year results on March 14 and buying of the shares has been strong in recent days.

Mr Geoffrey Hoodless, analyst at W. Greenwell, points out two main features in the sector's appeal. Premiums for reinsurers were dealt in. High volumes were also noted in the share index and Jaguar contracts.

Prices generally were quiet, showing gains and losses of just a few pence, but the CU April 160p call contract rose 11p and there was also strong movement in prices of De Beers options.

make Grouse a leading brand in the American market.

Marshall's Universal, which last year shook off a bid from Grovebell, went 3p better at 77p as it prepared to reach a deal whereby it hives off its East African motor dealing business.

The sale of its Peugeot and Volvo dealerships should bring in about £3.9 million after tax and expenses helping reduce borrowings. Marshall's wants to concentrate on its British activities, paper and component distribution.

Brengreen, the office cleaning group, went 1p easier at 47 1/2p after agreeing to pay £5.5 million for Four Seasons Roofing which installs and repairs factory and office roofs. The business is expecting to report

profits of not less than £600,000 for last year.

Meanwhile, Brengreen says it believes there is scope for similar deals to the one reached to clean the Debenhams store chain. While the health care business is slow, it should improve significantly over the next two to three years.

Total was unchanged at 71 1/2p after news that Entrad 11K has extended its £124 million cash bid for a further two weeks. At the first closing date Entrad had received acceptance representing less than 1.1 per cent of Total's shares.

Highland Participants jumped 37p to 217p on news that the group proposes to place 1.25 million new shares with a number of institutions at 150p to raise £1.875 million to expand the company's activities in Britain and America. Since the £500,000 rights issue last July, this fledgling oil and gas exploration group says it has participated in the drilling of four wells. They have all been tested and proved to be commercial. It is now engaged in drilling a further five.

Oil shares brightened despite the continuing uncertainties for world oil prices. The good profits news from BP spurred the price rises.

Enterprises Oil, fast becoming a favourite with the analysts, rose 3p to 200p, and there were similar sized gains for Carless Capel & Leonard, Charterhall, Jackson Exploration and Sovereign Oil & Gas. Shell and other leading oil shares lost ground.

Takeover talk is growing about Appleyard Group, the garage and car dealing business. Profits news is on the way and once that is over, a bidder is expected to show his hand. Recently the shares have traded close to the top end of their range. Yesterday, the price stood at 56p.

£80.1 million for Sedgwick, and £42 million against £38.3 million for Willis Faber.

Highland Distilleries rose 7p to 70p on news that Heublein, one of the biggest spirits marketers and distributors in America, has agreed to take the company's Famous Grouse brand on board with the aim of building it into one of the leading Scotch premium blends in the US. Mr John Macphail, chairman, said he was confident Heublein had the ability to

Traded option highlights

Traded options business perked up yesterday, helped by higher activity in BP contracts. Of the 7,606 contracts traded, 1,647 were in BP options; 1,496 of those were called options.

Commercial Union, which also produced profits news yesterday, saw 1,026 contracts change hands, and 1,081 BT

options were dealt in. High volumes were also noted in the share index and Jaguar contracts.

Prices generally were quiet, showing gains and losses of just a few pence, but the CU April 160p call contract rose 11p and there was also strong movement in prices of De Beers options.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

● SILVERMINES: The annual meeting was told that the group's wholly-owned subsidiary, Shaltee Holdings, has exercised its option to dispose of 30 per cent of Anglian Windows to British Electric Traction for £8.7 million.

● FIFE INDMAR Results for 1984. Total dividend 7p (6.6p). Figures in £000. Group turnover 13,236 (12,762). Trading profit 912 (775). Interest 101 (74). Pretax profit 751 (703). Tax 199 (210). Extraordinary debit nil (136).

Earnings per share 19.29p (17.49p). ● LONDON SCOTTISH FINANCIAL CORPORATION has through venture Capital fund, injected £30,000 of new capital into an educational supplies company, CES Holdings.

TAX RELIEF 1984/85

SMITHFIELD DEVELOPMENTS PLC

"Of the property development schemes, Noble Grossart's Smithfield Developments looks particularly attractive."

THE TIMES, 2nd March 1985.

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صكا من الامل

TEMPUS

A taste of Cadbury for Europe

Cadbury Schweppes is not letting up in its efforts to become a truly international company. Sixty per cent of trading profits are generated outside Britain and the company is broadening its international capital base with an \$80 million (£75.5 million) convertible bond issue.

The exact terms of the bond issue will be determined next week, but the coupon should be fixed at about 8 per cent for a 15-year term. The issue will require about 40 million shares to be set aside for bondholders.

The target markets will be Switzerland and Germany.

Inspired by the success of its issue of 60 million shares in the US by way of American depositary receipts last year, Cadbury is confident that the convertible bond will broaden its European shareholder base.

The strategy of backing up product marketing by generating interest in the company's capital clearly has its attractions.

However, the new bond also reflects the attention which Cadbury has been paying to its debt portfolio, which has been hit by exchange rates in recent months. There has been some currency switching and the ADR issue allowed the company to reduce dollar debts by \$100 million. The bond increases the fixed debt proportion of the loan portfolio and conversion will be from dollar debt into sterling equity.

The money raised will not only reduce short-term debt but will also allow Cadbury to move forward smoothly on its international investment programme.

North America has been singled out for specific attention and about one third of operating assets are now located there. More than half

the group's operating assets are now overseas.

A function of this internationalization is that the group is more exposed to the vagaries of currency fluctuations. Yesterday's preliminary results showed that that pretax profits had risen from £106.9 million to £124 million, yet one third of that increase came from currency translation. Cadbury uses year-end translation rates and if there is a reversal, particularly in the dollar, then the figures will suffer.

The results were in line with expectations. Cadbury saw increases in confectionery volumes and market share in Britain, helped by its new Wispa bar.

The company should make £145 million in this year. The great unknown will be the interest charge, which increased from £36 million to £48.7 million last year. Net borrowings were down in the year and gearing is 43.6 per cent down from 61 per cent.

Another problem could come in the run off of the discounted business. CU has added an extra \$60 million (£52 million) to reserves to cope with this but more may be needed.

Yet from such a low base an improvement of some sort is inevitable, particularly since CU is unlikely to suffer this year from the same currency movements which contributed £24.7 million to last year's loss. At 11.80p the dividend is safely covered and shareholders' funds rose by £25 million to £1,073 million leaving a solvency margin of a safe 50 per cent.

Clearly, investors took seriously the optimistic front put up by the CU board which said that insurance markets were improving and that all would be on the right track, if not necessarily in profit, by the end of this year.

But such optimism hinges on the success of the company in restructuring its disastrous US operation. The company has already taken steps to slim down its range of business

drastically reducing the number of agents feeding it business and cutting staff in the US.

But the company's commitment to reduce its exposure to commercial underwriting and increase it in the personal sector could hold problems. The premium rate improvements in the US are best in the commercial sector while personal lines continue to be highly competitive.

The administrative reorganization will cut costs but, by the company's own admission, will have little effect on the expense ratio. This is because CU's investment income is likely to fall this year as premium income is reduced by 25 per cent.

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underperformance by the share price does not help.

BSR's figures yesterday certainly gave the Cassandras a field day. Closure of its plant at Stourbridge West Midlands, comes after audio losses of £5 million in the last two years, and will absorb a chunk of the £8 million extraordinary provisions for 1984. The housewares side has seen an upturn of £2 million, while profits on the industrial side last year doubled. But these two divisions taken together are generating nearly £70 million of sales but only just over £3 million in profit.

Not surprisingly, BSR would like to rearrange its relationship with these subsidiaries. The money-spinning electronics side is also having its share of problems, notably a changing sales mix, which has led to higher volumes and working capital requirements, but lower margins.

The net result of last year's trading is that debt is still about 70 per cent of equity, and in absolute terms, is unchanged at about £74 million. The group could plainly benefit from an injection of £15 million to £20 million, of fresh capital.

Nevertheless, BSR's relationships with its bankers is improving fast, and its chief executive, Mr Bill Wylie, who has done the corporate equivalent of walking on water with BSR, is hoping to see pretax profits this year of about £30 million.

At 150p, a p/e of 10 is taking no chances. But it ignores perhaps the fact that this year's capital spending programme will be sharply lower, like the R&D charge, so that 1985 may see some balance sheet improvement.

Cadbury Schweppes

Preliminary Results: 52 weeks ended 29th December 1984

	1984	1983	%
	£m	£m	change
Sales	2,016.2	1,702.8	+18
Trading profit	154.4	125.6	+23
Profit before tax	124.0	106.9	+16
Earnings per share	15.7p	13.6p	+15
Dividends per share	5.9p	5.4p	+9

- Sales of both confectionery and drinks were up by volume 6% worldwide.
- International divisions contributed 60% of trading profits.
- Confectionery and drinks divisions increased margins and market share.
- Investment in innovation will continue and its importance is emphasised by the success of Wispa.
- Management structure directly geared to achieving results by backing Cadbury Schweppes international brands.
- Return on assets up from 17.5% to 18.5% per annum.
- Strengthened balance sheet and reduced borrowings.
- 1985 will see benefits of further investment in marketing and manufacturing in terms of brand strength and continuing cash inflow.

Adrian Cadbury
Chairman

SALES AND TRADING PROFIT BY GEOGRAPHICAL REGION

	Sales		Trading Profit	
	1984	1983	1984	1983
	£m	£m	£m	£m
United Kingdom	920.8	823.9	62.3	57.3
Europe	232.1	196.2	16.5	10.6
North America	486.0	374.8	36.9	26.9
Australia	260.2	188.7	25.0	17.5
Africa, Asia & New Zealand	117.1	119.2	13.7	13.3
	£2,016.2	£1,702.8	£154.4	£125.6

Cadbury Schweppes p.l.c.,
1-4 Connaught Place, London W2 2EX. Telephone (01) 262 1212.

The abridged accounts set out above are extracted from the full group latest accounts as approved by the Board on 7th March 1985 which have not yet been delivered to the Registrar of Companies. The auditors have indicated their intention to render an unqualified opinion thereon.

BARCLAYS 1984

Strong capital resources to support the future.

The Chairman, Sir Timothy Bevan, said today: I am pleased to report pre-tax profits of £655m, which are 18% higher than last year and a record for the Barclays Group.

This encouraging result reflects a strong performance from operations in the U.K., despite a continued high level of provisions for bad and doubtful debts. Internationally, there was a welcome recovery in the United States, but South Africa had a difficult year. We have again felt it necessary to make substantial provisions, both specific and general.

The Finance Act 1984 has caused a substantially higher tax charge and so profit attributable to stockholders has hardly changed, even though pre-tax profit increased by almost £100m.

On 1st January, 1985 the merger of our U.K. and International Banks was completed. At the end of that month we sold our 34% interest in the Bank of Scotland for £155m.

Group capital resources now exceed their end-1983 levels even after making special provisions for deferred tax of £343m. This is the result of profit retentions and the raising of U.S.\$950m in undated capital notes and loan capital.

We believe that a further strengthening of the Group's capital base now will enable full advantage to be taken of the opportunities which are arising as significant changes take place in financial markets

throughout the world. Over the next few years we intend to support the expansion of successful operations in the U.K. and abroad and are planning important moves into the securities industry. Advances in technology will also require investment as the Group redesigns and improves its services in the personal and corporate markets.

Accordingly, we are proposing to raise approximately £507m by way of a rights issue on the basis of one new Ordinary share at the price of £1.50 per share for each Ordinary stock unit held, a substantial discount to the current market price. By following the deep discount route, not only will underwriting expense be saved, but the lowering of the price at which the Ordinary stock is traded on The Stock Exchange should encourage wider ownership.

Current trading is satisfactory and further growth is expected in the business in the United Kingdom and overseas during 1985. Although it is too early in the year to make a profit forecast, we view the future with confidence.

Timothy Bevan

Sir Timothy Bevan, Chairman of Barclays PLC

7th March 1985

CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1984

(Historic cost basis)			
The Directors of Barclays PLC (formerly Barclays Bank PLC) report the following Group results for the year ended 31st December 1984:			
	1984	1983	
	£m	£m	
Operating profit	737	582	
Share of profit of associated companies	87	77	
Total Group profit	824	659	
Interest on loan capital and undated capital notes	169	102	
Profit before taxation and extraordinary items	655	557	
Taxation	342	230	
Profit after taxation	313	327	
Profit attributable to minority interests in subsidiary companies	22	48	
	291	279	
Extraordinary items:			
Special provisions for deferred taxation	(543)		
Transfer from reserves	543		
	—		
Surplus on reduction of holdings in Group companies	7	—	
Profit attributable to members of Barclays PLC	298	279	
Dividends:			
Interim	43	39	
Second interim (1985: final)	46	43	
	89	82	
Profit retained	209	207	
Earnings per £1 Ordinary stock (before extraordinary items)	85.1p	84.8p	
Dividends per £1 Ordinary stock	26.0p	24.0p	

The information given in this preliminary announcement does not comprise full accounts within the meaning of Section 11 Companies Act 1980. Full accounts containing an audited report given by the auditors will be published on 1st April 1985, and copies will be delivered to the Registrar of Companies in accordance with Section 1 Companies Act 1979.



BARCLAYS

54 LOMBARD STREET, LONDON EC3P 3AH

INDUSTRY TODAY

The mountaineer who scaled the Shell empire heights

Peter Holmes, new chairman of Shell Transport, British arm of the world's second biggest oil company, is as little known to the public as his predecessors were. Jonathan Davis found him far from colourless, still an active mountaineer, convinced that number two will try harder and that Shell is in good shape and ready to pounce.

For a glamour industry, the oil business has not always produced the most exciting or charismatic leaders. With some notable exceptions, the top jobs in the Seven Sisters in recent years have too often seemed to be reserved for stolid engineers or colourless backroom power brokers.

Mr Peter Holmes, however, the latest Briton to climb to the top of the Anglo-Dutch Shell empire, appears to mark a refreshing break from the conventional mould of modern oil baron.

Mr Holmes, it was announced last week, is to take over in July from Sir Peter Baxendale as chairman of Shell Transport and Trading, the British arm of the Royal Dutch Shell group. At 52, he will also become vice chairman of the parent company's committee of managing directors, Shell's top tier of management, sometimes dubbed its "politburo".

In due course, barring accidents, he will follow his Dutch colleague Mr Lo van Wachem, Sir Peter's immediate successor, as chairman of the eight-man committee.

Like most of his contemporaries in the oil industry, Mr Holmes has spent most of his working life abroad, much of it in the Middle East. Of his 29 years with Shell, all but 10 have been spent away from Britain.

His ascent to the top in Shell has therefore been achieved with the kind of public anonymity which is rarely, if ever, possible for the heads of the biggest all-British companies such as BP and ICI.

Mr Holmes acknowledges that Shell has always taken a



Peter Holmes: "Brain-washed" into exploration

Mr Holmes says. The present downward trend in prices may not yet be over, however.

"I don't think we are out of it, though I do think that it has been managed quite well by Opec. If you consider that they are 13 disparate countries, and two are at war with each other. They are under tremendous pressure, but they are managing it as best they can."

"As long as Opec manages to keep its own members under control the situation will probably remain more or less as it is for a few years - in other words potential oversupply, the price tending to weaken but not at all necessarily collapsing."

With the bulk of the world's oil reserves still concentrated in a few Opec and Middle East

countries, Shell is having to pursue what Mr Holmes calls "a delicate balancing act" between the short-term need to buy crude oil at the cheapest possible price and the longer-term imperative of keeping good contacts with countries which are going to remain important potential sources of supply in the future.

So far the balancing act appears to be working, according to Mr Holmes. "I guess that we have the lowest acquisition costs in the industry, and I would also guess that we have the widest spread of acquisitions."

Shell has had a head start on its competitors because it has traditionally been crude-short as a group, producing or lifting less than its sales needs. "Scrambling is nothing new to us," Mr Holmes says.

"I am quite convinced that our downstream, though it is not doing very well at the moment, is doing better than anybody else's", he said.

Overall the Shell group is "in a pretty damn good position", according to Mr Holmes. Upstream, it has been finding more oil and gas each year than it has produced, in contrast to most big oil companies.

"We have done as well as anyone, both in terms of volume of reserves and in finding costs". Shell is financially strong, and well placed to pick up the best of the oil assets that are increasingly coming up for sale in the United States.

There are a lot of weak or weaker players who will want out, both in the upstream, in the midstream and in the downstream", says Mr Holmes.

"Leading companies devouring each other in the States is probably a temporary phenomenon, but I think companies selling off parts of themselves will go on throughout the 80s and 90s". Shell, he makes clear, will be waiting to pounce.

Commercial Union 12 MONTHS REVIEW to 31 December 1984

An unaudited operating loss before taxation of £72.8m was incurred for the year to 31 December. Outside the United States a profit of £74.1m was achieved and the Directors are recommending that the final dividend be maintained.

In any comparison of the operating loss before taxation with 1983, the net adverse effect of movements in rates of exchange, amounting to £24.7m, should be taken into account.

The operating loss was effectively attributable to the United States where trading conditions for all insurance companies were especially difficult. However, there should be a marked improvement in the results of our current business in 1985 as we benefit from corrective action that we have taken in the United States and from the higher premium rates already being obtained there and in the United Kingdom.

Premium income was almost static in underlying terms. Reductions in the United States and Canada were offset by growth elsewhere. The Group expense ratio showed a further encouraging reduction of over 1 percentage point.

Investment income net of loan interest showed an underlying reduction of 6%, mainly due to the continuing effect of adverse trading on cash flow in the United States. Life profits continued to grow satisfactorily and included in the final quarter an £8.5m release from the Northern Non-Participation Fund reflecting favourable investment performance over recent years. The underlying increase remained high at 16%.

In the United States experience remained very poor, particularly in commercial lines. The operating ratio for all lines was 126.8% (1983 123.9%). Strong corrective action was implemented to obtain substantial rate increases, cut expenses and reduce our portfolio by ceasing to write special risks, reinsurance and surplus lines business. We have thus fundamentally changed our operation to become a smaller, more cost effective company concentrating on personal and small commercial lines of insurance and life business. In the second half of the year we increased substantially our provision for late reported claims and, taking account of the action to reduce our portfolio, we charged an additional amount of approximately \$60m (£52m) against our result to increase claims provisions further at the end of the year. Since the end of 1982 outstanding claims provisions have been increased by 31% whilst premium income has fallen by 14%. This strengthening of provisions will reduce the effect of the drain on results from discontinued business.

In the United Kingdom the marked decline in profitability was due to intense competition and generally adverse claims experience, including the effect of weather conditions early in the year. However, progress has already been made in achieving higher premium rates and further increases will be implemented in 1985.

The Netherlands operating profit showed a highly satisfactory underlying increase of 18%.

In Canada premium income was affected by excessive competition which, together with changes in the legal environment, produced a lower operating profit.

The Rest of the World insurance activities produced a satisfactory operating profit. Investment income continued to be affected by the transfer of funds to the United States at the end of 1983.

Final dividend. In view of the financial strength of the Company and the improved prospects in the United States and United Kingdom, the Directors recommend an unchanged final dividend of 6.950p per share payable on 17 May 1985. Together with the interim dividend of 4.850p this gives a total dividend of 11.800p (1983 11.800p) per share. These dividends, including preference dividends for 1984, amount to £48.7m.

	1984	1983
	£m	£m
Premium income		
Life	495.6	400.8
Non-life	2,159.5	1,884.2
Total	2,655.1	2,285.0
Investment income net of loan interest	275.9	255.4
Underwriting result	(439.4)	(314.2)
Life profits	77.9	55.8
Associated companies' earnings	12.8	12.3
Operating profit/(loss) before taxation	(72.8)	9.3
Taxation and minorities	(15.5)	(17.4)
Operating loss	(88.3)	(8.1)
Realised investment gains	53.4	30.1
Profit/(loss) attributable to shareholders	(34.9)	22.0
Earnings per share		
Operating loss	(21.44p)	(1.99p)
Realised investment gains	12.95p	7.31p
Total	(8.49p)	5.32p
Shareholders' funds	£1,073m	£1,048m
Operating profit/(loss) before taxation	£m	£m
United States	(146.9)	(114.8)
United Kingdom	41.4	41.8
Netherlands	42.9	33.8
Canada	8.4	21.9
Rest of the World	10.4	26.6
	(72.8)	9.3
Rates of exchange		
United States	\$1.16	\$1.45
Netherlands	Fls4.13	Fls4.45
Canada	\$1.54	\$1.80

This announcement does not constitute full accounts for the year. Copies of the full accounts, which have not yet been reported upon by the Auditors, will be circulated to shareholders on 21 March 1985 and delivered to the Registrar of Companies after approval at the Annual General Meeting which will be held on 15 April 1985.



Commercial Union
Assurance Company plc

John Lewis Partnership plc department stores and Waitrose supermarkets

Consolidated Results* for the year ended 26 January 1985

	1984/85	1983/84
	£m	£m
Sales	1,206.2	1,072.1
Trading Profit	78.3	70.8
Interest	3.9	4.2
Pensions Fund Contributions	8.8	7.7
Taxation	13.7	8.5
Preference Dividends	0.3	0.4
Surplus available for profit sharing and retentions	51.6	50.0
Partnership Bonus	25.7	25.4
Retentions	25.9	24.6

*Abridged, estimated and unaudited.

Sales increased by 13% to £1,206 million. Department store sales rose by 12% to £638 million and sales in Waitrose supermarkets by 14% to £554 million.

Trading Profit increased by 11% to a record figure of £78 million.

Taxation. Higher taxable profits, the abolition of stock relief and the reduction in capital allowances, partly offset by the fall in the rate of Corporation Tax, led to a rise of £5.2 million.

ProfitSharing. All the equity capital of John Lewis Partnership plc is held in trust for the benefit of the workers in the business. The profits remaining after taxation, preference dividends, pensions and allocations to reserves are distributed yearly among the workers as Partnership Bonus in proportion to their pay. This year the rate of distribution will be 19% of pay (1983/4 21%).

For further details please telephone 01-637 3434 ext 6221 or write to Chief Information Officer, 4 Old Cavendish Street, London W1A 1EX.

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Fewer will escape red tape

By Derek Harris

Proposed changes to lift the burden of red tape from small businesses look likely to apply only to smaller companies with up to 50 employees. These are the sort of companies least able to cope with the demands of governmental form-filling and for which compliance with the multi-farious regulations governing companies can even drive them out of business.

Until now it had been expected that companies with up to 200 employees would benefit from any changes.

A series of deregulation proposals to give more freedom to small businesses has been drawn up by a Rayner-style scrutiny committee, which has been looking at the administrative burdens imposed by a wide range of government departments. Represented on the committee, chaired by a senior official from the Department of Trade and Industry, have been the Customs and Excise, the Inland Revenue, the

Home Office and the departments of health and social security, employment, environment and education.

The committee was set up after David Trippier, the minister for small business at the DTI, put an analysis of small companies' problems on administrative and other burdens to the Prime Minister and others in the Cabinet.

With so many government departments involved, discussions are continuing in Whitehall on first drafts of the committee's report. A final version, which will be published, has been promised before the summer and could be only a matter of weeks away.

It is unlikely that small businesses will be exempted from meeting health and safety regulations which cover a variety of machine and other safety measures such as provision of fire doors are also likely to remain.

A reduction and simplification of planning regulations is likely. Ways are also being studied of reducing the

burden of employment legislation, particularly that governing unfair dismissal claims. Rules on maternity leave have been under scrutiny.

The possibility of modifying statutory demands on preparation and filing of company accounts is also under consideration.

There has been increasing emphasis by the Prime Minister in public statements in recent weeks of the role small businesses should play in creating jobs. It means there is a growing political urgency in setting out a freedom charter for small businesses based on the scrutiny report. What seems probable is that individual departments will put through Bills making changes in their own areas. But it looks likely that an overall responsibility to push through changes will go to Lord Young, who is head of the Cabinet Office enterprise unit.

Radical raising of the VAT registration threshold still seems, as an issue, to be firmly under Treasury control because it is a Budget matter.

Making it - by faking it

By Geoffrey Ellis

As animal conservation wins greater sympathy, an east London clothing manufacturer is benefitting with increased sales of his speciality, imitation fur coats. William Angel has seen his company, Looksmart - started less than four years ago with a £35,000 Barclays Bank loan - increase turnover from an initial £1 million to £2 million-plus, with £4.5 million projected in 1985-86.

After a lifetime in the fashion business, Mr Angel decided to go it alone. He started operations from his kitchen table. Selling largely to mail-order companies and big chain stores,

the company, now producing 150,000 to 200,000 coats and jackets a year, derives half its sales from fur-fabric garments, with almost three-quarters of this figure going to export.

Two years ago Mr Angel joined forces with Aubrey Gilchrist, another veteran of the trade, and now, with their new label, Charisma, providing high-fashion garments, the partner-

ship expects to see more than half the output going to export markets.

Established in a modern building in Hackney, the company has gained an offset of £14,000 from rent on the premises from Hackney council, and in return, sends all its work out to small firms in the borough.

To increase cash flow, the company employs factoring, which enables it to raise 80 per cent on each invoice immediately it is sent.

The company has seen its profits double each year, and expects to treble them this year, but has now reached a point familiar to other companies - how to sustain and stimulate further growth, possibly by seeking funds for expansion through venture-capital investment.

For example: William Angel, left, and Aubrey Gilchrist: success in a conservation market

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'Marriage bureau' comes on line

BRIEFING

from their Spennymoor plant in the North-East.

After a formal training programme at DUBS they are moving out to most companies with which they will work full-time for 18 weeks.

After that, they will report on how they have contributed to their companies. A panel of judges will recommend cash awards totalling £2,700. It is expected the first prize will be £1,000.

Dr Alex Sorrie, the programme director, says there has been a good response from both graduates and companies.

The scheme aims to create two-way benefits. Graduates will gain experience of working on live company problems and, at the same time, demonstrate the contribution of which they are capable.

Small businesses in the North-East are linking hands with Durham University Business School (DUBS) to provide work for 24 jobless graduates, all under 25, with the chance that one of them could end up £1,000 richer (see A. Jack writes).

The 24, screened from 80, have been chosen to participate in this year's graduate and business-development award sponsored by Rothmans, the tobacco manufacturers

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The Church Commissioners have received from the Church of England, a notice of intention to exercise the powers conferred by the Pastoral Measure 1963, in relation to the parish of St. Martin, Vintria, in the Diocese of London.

The notice is dated 1st March 1985, and states that the Church Commissioners intend to exercise the powers conferred by the Pastoral Measure 1963, in relation to the parish of St. Martin, Vintria, in the Diocese of London.

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FOOTBALL: DARK DAYS IN LONDON BUT PROSPECTS ARE BRIGHT ON MERSEYSIDE

Bruce is heading back to Wembley

Steve Bruce returns to Wembley for the Milk Cup final against Sunderland on March 23. The central defender, whose 87th-minute header gave Norwich City a 2-1 aggregate win over Tottenham in the semi-final on Wednesday night, was a 15-year-old ball boy at the 1976 League Cup final between Manchester City and Newcastle.

To his disappointment he saw Asa Hartford, now a colleague at Carrow Road, help City to a 2-1 win. "All I can remember about it is hurrying to get the ball back into play near the end because the castle were losing and receiving a mouthful of abuse from Manchester City's Willie Donachie because he wanted to waste time," Bruce jokes from Newcastle.

"I can hardly believe that I am going back there as a player nine years later. It is incredible how things have worked out for me at Norwich because the first touch for them on the opening day of the season was an own goal against Liverpool.

Bruce's thunderous header from Mark Barham's corner followed two previous efforts which hit the bar and had been scrambled off the line. "We had been practising the move to draw Terry Butcher out of the way," Bruce said. "After I had missed a couple the best had to go me. But I told him I would score the winner from it two minutes from time. I knew it was going to be a goal as soon as I left Mark's foot. Nobody was going to stop me getting there first."

He was helped by the 21st-minute departure of the man assigned to mark him, Mick O'Avray had to be detained overnight in hospital with concussion.

Ton Norwich veterans had special cause to thank Bruce. Mick Channon and Hartford return to Wembley a dozen years after their last finish there.

Lee Sinnott was blamed by Graham Taylor, the Watford manager, for attempting to play an offside trap in the centre of his penalty area which helped Leto recover from 2-0 down to earn another replay of the FA Cup fifth-round tie.

Only Bruce scored three goals in a 5-1 win over Wimbledon that gives West Ham an FA Cup sixth round visit to Manchester United on Wednesday night.

Flaws which leave Spurs chasing Spanish shadows

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Darkness has fallen this week in the capital of the country that introduced the once beautiful game to the world. Incidents off the pitch at Stamford Bridge on Monday night deepened England's foul reputation and events on the pitch at White Hart Lane on Wednesday night exposed the weaknesses of the first division.

Real Madrid are a shadow of their supreme predecessors. Apart from the gifted Butragueno, they are no more than a competent, so untested and so unsure in their own homeland, their recent form suggested that they might not reach even those ordinary heights during the first leg of the UEFA Cup tie.

They did not have to. Tottenham Hotspur, beaten 1-0, did miss the drive and influence of the suspended Roberts, but as well as Peter Shreeve's tactical error in selecting both Hazard and Hoddle, midfield clones, their deficiencies were spread across the length and breadth of their own ground.

The most glaring flaw lay at the centre of Tottenham's defence. Miller, as graceful and as quick as a continental juggler, is adequate enough in dealing with tall, bulky and largely predictable centre forwards during the course of

his domestic duties. But Butragueno is small, lithe and tricky. He presented Miller with insurmountable problems.

Similarly, the first touch of Falco and Crooks is more or less sufficient in the relative freedom of the first division. Closely guarded by Sanchis and Salguero, not yet full Spanish internationals, their control had to be instant for Tottenham's ideas to flow. It was not, and they never did.

Since the art of taking on a defender, shown fleetingly only by Hazard, is dying in the current English climate, the one remaining weapon in Tottenham's usually extensive armoury was the long cross sent with the hope that they might batter the opposition into submission. Under Stuelke's organization, Real did not look like succumbing.

Although Tottenham can claim to be the second most accomplished side in the land, they failed to match an outfit that is falling away from the Spanish peak towards financial difficulties.

Everton and Liverpool, first and fourth in the first division, should take the best and most reliable of England's talent into the last four of the Cup Winners' Cup and the European Cup respectively. It is no

coincidence that Howard Kendall's team, 3-0 winner over Fortuna Sittard, have been compared to their Merseyside neighbours.

They approach the game in the same simple and effective way, looking for the feet rather than the heads of their colleagues, assist each other continually in running off the ball and are not afraid to keep possession. Liverpool, who drew 1-1 in Vienna, are still masterful in their groundwork.

Jeunesse, holding a three-goal advantage over Sparta Prague, remain a genuine threat to Liverpool's ambitions of retaining the trophy. Everton, if they complete their task in the Netherlands will step into the formidable quartet, likely to include the cup holders of West Germany, Bayern Munich, East Germany, Dynamo Dresden, and the Soviet Union, Moscow Dynamo.

Manchester United should be going to Videoton, a powerful side in their own home, with much more than the lone cushion supplied by Stapleton. But attack, probably reinforced then by the return of Bryan Robson, has always been their best defence.

York ordered to play after all

The Football League last night stepped in to settle a row between Millwall, FA Cup quarter finalists, and York City, who have ordered York to play a third division match at the Den tomorrow.

The game was postponed because Millwall were expecting to be involved in cup action, but they still do not know their last eight opponents because Watford and Luton have yet to settle a fifth round tie.

The London club asked York to play the League Cup game after the request was turned down. The Millwall appealed to the league.



Miller (left) and Crooks: found wanting

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

EUROPEAN CUP: Quarter-finals, first leg. Austria Vienna 1, Liverpool 1; Borussia Dortmund 1, Tottenham 1; Bayern Munich 1, Real Madrid 1; Juventus 1, Sparta Prague 0.

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS CUP: Quarter-finals, first leg. Bayern Munich 1, Roma 0; Borussia Dortmund 1, Real Madrid 1; Juventus 1, Sparta Prague 0; Tottenham 1, Borussia Dortmund 1.

UEFA CUP: Quarter-finals, first leg. Internazionale 1, Cologne 0; Manchester United 1, Valencia 0; Tottenham 1, Real Madrid 1; Lazio 1, Fiorentina 0.

FA CUP: Fifth round, first leg. Tottenham 1, Luton 0; Arsenal 1, Ipswich 0; Manchester United 1, Watford 0; Liverpool 1, Everton 0; Chelsea 1, Aston Villa 0.

LEAGUE CUP: Quarter-finals, first leg. Tottenham 1, Luton 0; Arsenal 1, Ipswich 0; Manchester United 1, Watford 0; Liverpool 1, Everton 0; Chelsea 1, Aston Villa 0.

THIRD DIVISION: Brighton 3, Blackpool 1; Reading 1, Bury 1; Macclesfield 1, Nantwich 1; York 1, Lincoln 1.

FOURTH DIVISION: Chester 0, Crewe 0; Haverhill 1, Bury 1; Macclesfield 1, Nantwich 1; York 1, Lincoln 1.

SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION: Aberdeen 1, Dundee 1; Rangers 1, Celtic 1; Hearts 1, Hibernian 1; Dundee United 1, St Johnstone 1.

SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION: Aberdeen 1, Dundee 1; Rangers 1, Celtic 1; Hearts 1, Hibernian 1; Dundee United 1, St Johnstone 1.

GOLF LEAGUE: Macclesfield 4, Worcester 1.

Verity on Wright lines

Non-League football by Paul Newman

Kevin Verity, the manager of the England semi-professional team, has signalled his intention to pursue a career similar to those of Kevin Wright, his highly successful predecessor. Verity's 16-strong squad for the international against Wales at Telford on March 16, 20, and 27, was a surprise, none of the players having been in the 13-man party selected by Wright last year for the annual four nations tournament.

Like Wright, Verity has placed his faith in players who have spent most of their careers in non-League football rather than former professionals nearing the end of their playing days. A total of 12 of the party play in the Gola League and Telford United, with three representing the Welsh Association team.

There are two players from Ayrton, Enfield and Nuneaton Borough.

BRISTOL SQUAD: K. Verity (Telford), A. Verity (Telford), D. Verity (Telford), P. Verity (Telford), S. Verity (Telford), M. Verity (Telford), J. Verity (Telford), R. Verity (Telford), L. Verity (Telford), T. Verity (Telford), B. Verity (Telford), N. Verity (Telford).



A star in the making: Debi Thomas, of the United States, during her short programme yesterday. She finished fifth.

Fadayeve inherits the Hamilton mantle

Tokyo (Reuters) - Alexander Fadayeve of the Soviet Union succeeded the United States' former champion Scott Hamilton, as the world men's figure skating title holder by outskating Brian Orser of Canada, in the free skating final here yesterday.

The little Russian produced two outstanding combination jumps at the start of his programme and went on to give a varied and highly confident display that none of his main rivals, skating after him, could match. Fadayeve was awarded six high technical marks of 5.9 as he moved up from the bronze medal position he took in the world championships last year.

Orser and the American, Brian Boitano, each advanced one place to take the silver and bronze medals. The European champion, Josef Sabocovik of Czechoslovakia, had a bad day and dropped to fourth.

Fadayeve said: "It was only when I arrived in Tokyo that I felt the confidence and the strength to do well." He suffered a thigh injury last December that kept him away from the European championships this year.

Earlier the world, Olympic and European champion, Katarina Witt, of East Germany, won the women's short programme and though she

India and Pakistan in an unfamiliar setting for holy war

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Melbourne

By upsetting the local apple cart and reaching the final of the Benson and Hedges "World Championship of Cricket," India and Pakistan have created thousands of miles away, the sort of situation which no one unfamiliar with life on the great Indian sub-continent would expect.

When the two countries meet on such an occasion as this, the tensions extend far beyond the boundaries of sport.

The Pakistanis would say, I expect, that Wednesday's match against West Indies imposed an entirely different kind of pressure than Sunday's final will. It is not that the Indian and Pakistani players are personally at odds, simply that an awful lot of people represent what see this not just as a cricket match but as much as a holy war. There can be no playing for a draw, either as there usually is when the two sides meet in a Test match.

When India and Pakistan played each other in one of the group matches a fortnight ago, it had occurred to no one that they might meet for the second time in the final. India won then, as they should again if they overcome the sort of cricket that has brought them four successive victories. They have beaten Australia by eight wickets, England by six runs, New Zealand by seven wickets and Pakistan by six wickets, bowling Australia out for 163, England for 149, New Zealand for 306 and Pakistan for 183.

Shastri, Venkataratnam, Ashrafuddin and Kapil Dev have all, at different times, batted very well. Shastri has been the outstanding all-rounder of the tournament and Siva's bowling one of its greatest delights.

Gavaskar's captaincy has been hard to fault, which is not always the case. His decision to send Shastri in first with Srikanth and to bat at No 5 or 6 himself has also been a success.

Gavaskar never ceases to stress how much less oppressive India find it to play away at home, where more is expected of them and fewer allowances are made when they fail.

But a side that can beat West Indies as comprehensively as Pakistan did here on Wednesday must also be fancying their chance. By batting as they did, Ranjive Raja and Qasim Omar ease the burden for Pakistan's senior players. It took courage to drop Zaheer after the second match. He is one of the great legends of Pakistan's cricket.

But they would be doing so. There is a good, lively look about them at the moment. Each member of the winning side will be more than £2,000 better off - not more to some sportsmen, even some cricketers, but a real windfall to most of this Sunday's players.

If the Victorian Cricket Association could not have England and Australia in the final, West Indies and New Zealand would be adequate substitutes. That is how, as promoters, they probably saw it. India and Pakistan would fill the void. The Victorian Cricket Association wanted to stage the 1991 World Cup. It has also had little success in attracting financial support. If not ill-conceived, the tournament is undoubtedly ill-timed.

It is as a result, prospective holders of such events are discouraged. It is likely that at least 90 over a day will have to be bowled. England has wanted to stage a 90 over a day but the Australians had been unable to agree. The 1984 Test selectors were re-elected with Peter May (chairman), Alec Bedser, Alan Smith and Paul Sharpe holding their places.

England will know by the end of May whether they will be touring West Indies next winter. The Caribbean authorities have agreed to submit a suggestion for a tour to the West Indies in 1986. England B team will also visit Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe and possibly Bangladesh and India.

For the first time the three limited overs competitions in English cricket will have a final system for teams who bowl their overs too slowly. An over rate of approximately 16 an hour will have to be maintained in the Benson and Hedges Cup and the NatWest Trophy. The £100 in the early stages and £200 later on for each over not fulfilled.

GOLF

Gardner takes early lead at Bay Hill

From John Ballantine, Orlando

A stiff wind which dried out the already slick greens and brought the numerous lake winds roaring into the Bay Hill clubhouse yesterday, was the opening round of the Bay Hill Classic on Arnold Palmer's course here yesterday.

The early lead, Buddy Gardner, age 29, of Alabama, who has yet to win a tournament, returned 69 despite hitting a five-iron into the water at the last hole and dropping two strokes. "I found my ball in a deep divot hole after a perfect drive," was his excuse. He finished where he began, drove into thick rough. At the 23rd yard 17th, which on Sunday will carry a special prize of one million dollars for the first hole in one half to go to the lucky player and half to local charities.

Larger began well with a birdie from four feet at the 31st yard but hit his second stroke at the 40th yard third in extra hole. His side was after driving into the right hand rough, he hit a five iron which

boomed off the bank of the lake into shallow water.

The German peeled off his socks and waded in with his pitching wedge to extricate the ball back on to the fairway from about three inches of water. He pitched to three feet but missed the green. A fine stroke from 14 feet earned him a birdie at the fourth but he later dropped three strokes in rough, trees, and sand to get out in 39.

A birdie at the long 12th was neutralised by a bogie at the 16th where he again drove into thick rough. At the 23rd yard 17th, which on Sunday will carry a special prize of one million dollars for the first hole in one half to go to the lucky player and half to local charities.

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The German peeled off his socks and waded in with his pitching wedge to extricate the ball back on to the fairway from about three inches of water. He pitched to three feet but missed the green. A fine stroke from 14 feet earned him a birdie at the fourth but he later dropped three strokes in rough, trees, and sand to get out in 39.

A birdie at the long 12th was neutralised by a bogie at the 16th where he again drove into thick rough. At the 23rd yard 17th, which on Sunday will carry a special prize of one million dollars for the first hole in one half to go to the lucky player and half to local charities.

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Davis Cup postponement sparks Chilean appeal

London, (Reuters) - Chile and the holders, Sweden, must play their Davis Cup first round tie before July 28, five days before the second round, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) ruled yesterday. The first round match, scheduled for Santiago this weekend, has been postponed following the Swedish team's refusal to remain in a city where an earthquake took place last Sunday.

Chile will appeal against the decision, the Chilean Tennis Federation president, Alejandro Peris said yesterday. Peris said the tie could have been played without any problems. He added that as the Swedish team decided unilaterally to leave Santiago on Tuesday, the match should be awarded to Chile.

Chilean officials have repeatedly said their players were frightened at the last time the two countries met in the Cup, in 1975 in Sweden, where there were demonstrations by

Victory for Cambridge

First string Andrew Page sealed victory for Cambridge 4-2 in the Universities match, by defeating Alex Betts 6-3, 2-2 at Lord's yesterday. Cambridge had won both doubles on Wednesday (William Stephens writes).

Page was consistent in attacks on the winning openings but receiving service, he at times stood too erect and lost control over his ball.

Patrick Maxwell had revived Oxford, beating William Fairbairns 6-3, 6-3. P. Maxwell (Oxford) and Alex Betts (Cambridge) won the doubles on Wednesday (William Stephens writes).

CCPR put budget case

The Central Council of Physical Recreation has urged the Chancellor of the Exchequer to introduce tax changes to help modernise British sport. They want:

- A reduction in the excise duty on football pools betting.
- The removal of VAT on entry fees to sports clubs.
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Pedroza's demands hold up McGuigan

By Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent

After 26 hours of negotiations in Panama City, the demands of Ensenio Pedroza, to defend his WBA featherweight title against Barry McGuigan, of Ireland, could prove too much for B. J. Eastwood, McGuigan's manager.

It is not the huge sum the champion wants to come to England that is worrying Eastwood but two clauses that the Panamanians want inserted in the contract. They are firstly, that if McGuigan wins he must defend against Bernard Taylor, of the United States, in Tennessee. McGuigan's share of the purse can be only \$150,000 (about £225,000). And secondly, that if McGuigan loses he must defend against Pedroza in Panama City.

Eastwood has offered an undisclosed sum to buy out those two clauses. The Panamanians are considering it. Eastwood said that had it not been for "outside interference," Pedroza would have come to Belfast.

He has moved to Miami to sign the winner of the bout between Rocky Lockridge, the junior-lightweight champion, and Wilfredo Gomez, in May. If Lockridge wins, McGuigan will have to wait until

September as Dan Deva, the champion's manager, says that Lockridge will not be ready to take on the tough Irishman till then.

Another champion who may be kept waiting is Lloyd Honeyghan, Britain's European welterweight champion, who has a good win over Roger Stafford, of Philadelphia, on Wednesday at the Albert Hall, stopping the former world contender in nine rounds.

Heavenly was to defend his title against Gilles Eblita, of France, in May, but the Frenchman has other plans that may earn him a world title bout.

Johannsen holds out little hope

Copenhagen (AFP) - Ingemar Johannsen, the former world heavyweight champion from Sweden, thinks it will be "a miracle" if his compatriot, Anders Eklund, wins his challenge for the European heavyweight title against Steffen Tangstad, of Norway, here tomorrow.

The pairings for the University match at the Guildhall, Cambridge today are as follows:

First division: Cambridge (Bathurst School and Jesus) v St John's (Oxford) and Jesus v St John's (Oxford) and Jesus v St John's (Oxford).

Second division: Cambridge (Bathurst School and Jesus) v St John's (Oxford) and Jesus v St John's (Oxford) and Jesus v St John's (Oxford).

Third division: Cambridge (Bathurst School and Jesus) v St John's (Oxford) and Jesus v St John's (Oxford) and Jesus v St John's (Oxford).

Fourth division: Cambridge (Bathurst School and Jesus) v St John's (Oxford) and Jesus v St John's (Oxford) and Jesus v St John's (Oxford).

St Joseph's end in style

St Joseph's Academy Blackheath drew their final match against St Mary's, Slides 6-5 to finish with the fine record of 16 wins, two draws and one defeat, against the Chislehurst and Slough GS in the final of the Askan Floodlit Trophy in November.

On Sunday St Joseph's comfortably won the RG5 Colchester Sevens, scoring 23 tries and conceding only two. The Ley's, unbeaten throughout the season, may have been regarded as favourites but it was St Joseph's, Jagdish whom their namesakes defeated 26-0 in the final.

Another team to be celebrating are Edinburg Academy, who on Saturday completed their programme with a 14-6 victory over Westchester Castle School, winning all 16 their fixtures. A dinner is to be held after the Calcutta Cup match, to which the surviving members of the 1934 side, who was also unbeaten, are invited, their distinguished captain, Rab Bruce-Lockhart, hopes to be present.

Durham School hosted the Adrian Bala Memorial Sevens on

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ATHLETICS

Thompson and Mrs Slaney say drug abuse is widespread

By Pat Butcher

Daley Thompson and Mary Slaney (née Decker) two of the biggest stars in world athletics, have confirmed this week that drug-taking in the sport is as widespread as the worst pessimists would have us believe. Thompson, the double Olympic decathlon champion, talking on BBC television's *Sportnight*, estimated that up to a third of Britain's international athletes are on drugs, with the figure in the United States as high as 80 per cent. Thompson's estimates of drug-taking among British athletes were immediately questioned by the British Amateur Athletic Board secretary, Nigel Cooper. "I don't think Daley knows the total in the United States or here," he said. "I shall be shattered if our figure is 30 per cent." Cooper was referring to the random drug-testing of British athletes which is due to be instituted this year.

Thompson is much more likely to know about the extent of drug-taking in the sport here and in the United States than most. He has been a champion in the England v United States match at Cardiff this weekend. Lattany, who is the fastest man in the world at sea-level over 100 metres, was due to race only in the 200 metres against Todd Bennett, who was the 400 metres world-champion in Athens last week. But Bill Collins, an American sprinter, missed the plane to England on Wednesday and Lattany, who was at that distance in Athens.

Rob Harrison, Britain's third gold medalist in the 800 metres, moves up to the mile in an attempt to become the first Briton at Cardiff to break four minutes. Bob Verbeek, another champion from Athens, in the 5,000 metres, joins him, and one of only two men to break four minutes at Cardiff, Frank Assmus, in the United States team. A pacemaker will make breaking four minutes a certainty.

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RACING: LAST THREE WINNERS MEET IN GRAND MILITARY GOLD CUP

Special Cargo for Sandown encore

By Mandarini (Michael Phillips)

Today's field for the *Horse of the Year* Grand Military Gold Cup includes three past winners. Ballyross, successful in 1982 when the race was run at Kempton, Burnt Oak, the winner two years ago, and Special Cargo, that horse's conqueror 12 months ago.

Later in the season, Special Cargo ran the race of his life when he won the Whitbread Gold Cup, also on today's course. Anyone who was privileged enough to watch that race will surely never forget.

It need hardly be said that Special Cargo, at his best, should win this coveted trophy again for the Queen Mother. However, it remains to be seen whether he will be at his best after an absence from the racetrack of 10 months.

My feeling is that he will be fit enough. Fulke Walwyn, his immensely experienced trainer, who has wrought all sorts of miracles in his time, had him last to run in the Gainsborough Chase at Sandown at the beginning of February but had to forgo that opportunity because he rapped himself the day before.

Since the freeze finished, Walwyn has been able to give Special Cargo sufficient strong work to be hopeful that the royal standard bearer can become his fourth winner of the race in the last 10 years.

Ballyross is a force to be reckoned with on his day, but I feel that the underdog, Dicky Bloo, could turn out to be the main stumbling block, as he receives

a stone from the top weights. As a result, yesterday's hunter chase at Wincanton must only remotely disgraced at Lingfield eight days ago when chasing home Royal Judgement.

Ramblix, the winner of a point-to-point at Wetherby last Saturday, will be fit enough to do himself justice in the Duke of Gloucester Memorial Trophy Handicap. He should win it unless Henrietta Knight has managed to breathe fresh life into Bannoran.

Deep Impression is my idea of the day's best bet in the first division of the Lilac Novices' Hurdle. An easy winner at Lingfield in December, my nap has run well enough at Cheltenham, Leicester and Newbury in the meantime to suggest he ought to win again in this company.

Claude Monet, who finally got his act together at Hereford last Saturday after a number of promising but frustrating performances, should now be in the right sort of mood to win the BMW Novice Chase qualified at Worcester nine days ago.

At Carlisle, Mr Sangster's entry for this year's Grand National, should be capable of beating succeeded in the Kendal Handicap Chase even though he is undoubtedly better over trip beyond this three miles.

Final Argument looks the one to be on for the Binbrook Handicap Chase at Market Rasen following that highly encouraging run behind Clapham at Worcester nine days ago.

At Sandown Park, the Queen Mother's Special Cargo, who makes his seasonal reappearance in the Grand Military Gold Cup



The Queen Mother's Special Cargo, who makes his seasonal reappearance in the Grand Military Gold Cup

Broadheath defies top weight with game performance

Broadheath, only once out of the frame in six starts this season, put up a good performance by giving 11-4 on favourite, made all the running and, although his jumping was a little sketchy on occasions, his trainer was delighted with the easy victory.

"This tight race certainly didn't suit him but he's a nice horse with a future," Pipe said. The Triumph Hurdle is still on the agenda for Broadheath, but plans have yet to be finalised. His owner, Sir Cedric, also has Hicorymous engaged in the Triumph.

The winner is trained by David Nicholson for Michael Marsh, who said: "He is a good horse but the handicapper isn't very kind to him. Broadheath likes a holiday between his races and runs best when fresh. He ran one of his best races first time out this season when winning the Mercedes Benz Chase at Chesham."

There is no shortage of owners who have never enjoyed a winner and the Tote's inspired idea to sponsor races especially for them got off to a great start when it produced no fewer than 12 delighted winners. The syndicate set up by Kingsbridge trainer, David Barons, only a month ago, to share six New Zealand horses, one of whom, Stevava, won the Win With The Tote Maiden Hurdle.

Stevava was only their third runner and Barons was able to give them the right sort of encouragement. "I thought he would win today," the trainer said. "Stevava jumped Stevava past Quella Force at the second from home and won by 1½ lengths from Atrabates."

Six of Stevava's 12 owners were here to greet their winner. Barons said: "I can't say when Stevava will run next because I shall be looking for good ground for him."

Martin Pipe, the Piper Champagne trainer of the month for February, continued in fine form at

Triumph absentee

Out Of The Gloom, one-time favourite for the Triumph Hurdle, misses the race. Reg Hollinshead, his trainer, said: "I shall run him in a novice hurdle over two miles five furlongs at the Grand National meeting and after that I hope he will be my first Chester Cup winner."

Comeback victory

Bregawn, the 1983 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, gained his first success since when scoring at 14-1 over hurdles at Limerick Junction yesterday.

Steven Davies, aged 17, gained his first riding success when partnering Bregawn to victory in the Sudley Conditions County Selling Handicap Hurdle at Stratford yesterday.

Blackthorn Prince, a 40-1 chance for the Grand National, has joined Toby Balding from Ireland. He will have his Aintree preliminary in the Cathcart Chase at Cheltenham next week.

Results from two meetings

Wincanton

GOING: Good to soft.
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